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Knesset rejects 3 no-confidence motions
OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Israeli Knesset, rejected by a clear majority Monday three no-confidence motions against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, parliamentary sources said. Forty-nine deputies voted down the first motion, submitted by the Labour Party to denounce the deterioration of the country's security. Forty MPs backed the motion, and there were no abstentions. The left-wing opposition presented two other no-confidence motions condemning Mr. Netanyahu's support for Jewish settlement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The second was rejected by a 51-38 vote, while the third motion was defeated 51-37. There were no abstentions.

Khasawneh gets highest votes for U.N. panel
NEW YORK (Petra) — Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh Monday received the highest number of votes to the U.N. law committee. The committee consists of law experts in international laws and holds its meetings at the U.N.

Israeli soldier 'kidnapped'
OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel's defence minister said on Monday security forces now assumed a soldier who went missing in Israel in September was kidnapped. Sharon Edri, 19, was last seen on Sept. 11 at a medical clinic at an army base in central Israel. "As long as we have no other evidence, from our point of view Sharon Edri is being held against his will somewhere and we are making every effort in order to find him," Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai told Israel's army radio on Monday.

Only Saudis 'can speak about blast'
MUSCAT (AP) — Nothing should be disclosed about the probe of the June bombing that killed 19 Americans in Saudi Arabia except by the kingdom's security sources, the Saudi interior minister said. "Announcements concerning the blast will be made at the right time," Prince Nayef Ben Abdul Aziz was quoted as saying by the official Saudi Press Agency. "Once all investigations are through, everything concerning the event will be told. The Washington Post reported last week that the Saudis had made arrests and were now concentrating their probe outside the kingdom after determining that some Shiite Muslims among the suspects had links with Iran.

Iran, N. Korea sign security deal
TEHRAN (AP) — Iran and North Korea have signed an agreement to promote cooperation on domestic security, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Monday. It said the deal was signed late Sunday by Iran's deputy interior minister, Gholamhossein Bolandian, and North Korea's deputy minister for national security, Hwan Jin Tek.

4 Egyptians imprisoned
CAIRO (AP) — A court on Monday sentenced two Egyptian men and two teenagers to prison terms up to life for hijacking an airliner to Libya in a confused bid to force an end to Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories.

Israeli held on spying charge
CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian authorities have arrested an Israeli Arab on charges of spying for the Jewish state, judicial sources said here Monday. Azzam Azzam and an Egyptian whose name was not revealed were ordered detained Monday for 15 days while police investigate the charges, the sources said. The Israeli embassy in Cairo described the arrest as a "serious affair."

From P.V. Vivekanand in Cairo
ONE OF the key messages that Egypt wants to send through the MENA conference is that regional cooperation does not revolve around Israel; there is plenty of room for consolidating inter-Arab ties and Arab relations with other countries. Foreign Minister Amr Musa said Monday. By the same token, Mr. Musa implicitly urged absentees Syria and Lebanon to start participating in the multilateral phase of the Arab-Israeli peace process after accepting that not everything in the region has to do with Israel. Mr. Musa, addressing a press conference on the eve of

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Suharto begins first state visit

Economic agreements to be signed

By Francesca Ciriaci
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Indonesian President Haj Mohammed Suharto arrived here Monday on a four-day official visit during which he will hold talks with His Majesty King Hussein on means of boosting bilateral relations and reactivating the Middle East peace process.

The agenda of President Suharto's visit, widely expected to have important economic outcomes, includes the signing of economic cooperation agreements, officials said. Official sources said, Jordan and Indonesia will today sign a bilateral agreement for the protection and the promotion of investments, a protocol for the abolition of dual taxation between the two countries and an agreement on maritime transport.

Official talks between the King and President Suharto will start today, Tuesday. Head of the world's most populous Muslim country, President Suharto was preceded here by high-ranking public and private sector business delegations which started to attend a two-day meeting of the Jordanian-Indonesian Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation.

Upon his arrival, the Indonesian president was received at Queen Alia International Airport by the King, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, as well as Cabinet and Royal family members. In meetings held earlier with the visiting Indonesian business delegation, Jordanian officials and businessmen stressed the need for increasing the Kingdom's exports to Indonesia. During the meeting of the joint Jordanian-Indonesian commission on economic cooperation, held at the Ministry of Industry and Trade on Monday morning, acting minister of Industry and Trade and Minister of



His Majesty King Hussein on Monday receives Indonesian President Suharto at Amman airport upon his arrival on a four-day official visit to Jordan (photo by Yusef Allan)

Higher Education Abdullah Ensour said "the volume of Jordanian exports, mainly phosphates and potash, to Indonesia should be increased." According to official statistics, the Kingdom exported to Indonesia only JD38 million worth of goods in 1995, but imported more than JD59 million. "For many years, Jordan enjoyed a favourable balance of trade with Indonesia, but, in 1995, for the first time, it turned around

(Continued on page 12)

to show a deficit of about JD21 million, largely because of the drop in Indonesia's imports of Jordanian phosphate and potash," said Jordanian Businessmen Association (JBA) Chairman Hamdi Tabba' during a meeting with Indonesia Minister of Industry and Trade Tunku Aribowo.

The 23-member visiting business delegation included representatives from industries and firms operating in different sectors, ranging from general and industrial trading to fertilisers, telecommunications, air transport and tourism. Chief of the Middle East Committee of the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Muchrim Hakim identified "lack of awareness in mutual needs and demands," trade barriers and lack of sea transport as the "main obstacles to the development of trade between Indonesia and Jordan."

Addressing Jordanian businessmen gathered at the Amman Chamber of Industry, Mr. Hakim stressed the need for "expanding credit systems, ease loan procedures and facilitate other financial facilities to encourage joint projects." Calling for the increase of economic cooperation and commercial exchange among all Muslim countries, he also said trade barriers between Muslim countries should be progressively lowered, until

(Continued on page 12)

King, Kabariti hold talks with Ciller over bilateral relations, regional issues

Jordan, Turkey stress support for Iraq's territorial integrity

By Amy Henderson
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Monday evening held talks with Turkish Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller over bilateral relations and regional issues of mutual concern.

Dr. Ciller also met with Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, with whom she discussed progress in the Middle East peace process, economic ties, the situation in northern Iraq and regional war issues. During an arrival statement, Dr. Ciller said that she wanted, during her two-day visit, "to share views on the security of the region towards the benefit of the Middle East and our two countries."

Following discussions with Mr. Kabariti, Dr. Ciller told the Jordanian Businessmen's Association that she expected the oil pipeline running from Iraq to Turkey to be reopened by the end of the year, providing that "nothing new" happens in Iraq. In September, Iraq was close to securing the implementation of U.N. Resolution 986, known as the "oil-for-food deal" that would allow Baghdad to sell \$2 billion worth of oil over a six-month period to buy food and medicine. The oil would be transported via the pipeline to Turkey for

export. Turkey, which estimates that the six-year-old U.N.-imposed economic sanctions have brought it \$27 billion in trade losses, has consistently supported the implementation of the resolution.

"As of last week," she said, "we were able to bring all the parties (the United Nations, the United States, Britain) together and we feel that if nothing new happens, the pipeline will be opened before the end of the year." Iraqi Trade Minister Mohammad Mehdi Saleh on Monday urged further Turkish pressure on the U.S. and Britain to have the suspended oil-for-food deal implemented.

Dr. Ciller, however, warned that any stimulation to the region's economy provided by the pipeline's opening could not be sustained without political stability in northern Iraq. "Therefore, the second aspect of (Turkey's) Iraq policy is to try to bring peace to northern Iraq," she said. "Political stability is possible if we have peace, but peace cannot be easily brought when Kurds are fighting Kurds and terrorism is exported to other countries, including Turkey." Mr. Kabariti, in remarks during a meeting with Dr. Ciller at the prime ministry, reiterated Jordan's firm stand against terrorism, and said that Jordan stands

in full support of Turkey's efforts in its fight against terrorism. He said the Kingdom believes that a coordinated regional effort is of utmost importance in ridding the region of this phenomena.

Dr. Ciller said that Turkey wants to initiate an "international peace process" that respects the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Iraq. "We have done this by bringing in the Kurdish element, the Turkmen element and all the other elements living (in northern Iraq) together, as well as representatives from the U.N., the U.S. and the U.K. together. By the 15th of this month the second summit will take place." She said that the initiative also has the support of several Arab countries.

"We hope these elements can become friendly with each other and can collaborate with each other," she said. "We hope peace and stability can be attained, and we hope that within territorial integrity and sovereignty of Iraq, we will have economic growth with sustained political stability." Mr. Kabariti said that Jordan continues its call for self-restraint in northern Iraq. "We have followed with grave concern the recent escalation in the situation in Iraq and the military operations which might send Iraq

(Continued on page 12)

MENA summit opens in Cairo today

Egypt makes inter-Arab cooperation focus of conference

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Middle East and North Africa economic summit (MENA), the biggest ever meeting of Israel and Arab businessmen opens Tuesday in Cairo, and organisers hope the conference — almost cancelled as Mideast peace talks faltered — will help revitalise peace prospects.

"I think the conference is a chance to push forward cooperation on the bases of stability and peace," Prime Minister Kamal Al Ganzoury told Egyptian television on Monday. The three-day meeting is expected to draw some 3,500 participants from more than 90 countries, according to the Swiss-

headquartered World Economic Forum, which helped organise the three-day event.

They will include some 2,000 businessmen along with government delegations from the Middle East, Asia, Europe and the United States. The turnout is higher than expected, given that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak — with support from many Arab nations — threatened to call off the meeting over delays in the peace process. Official delegations began arriving here Monday for the third MENA, with Egypt calling for the event to focus on boosting inter-Arab trade.

A European delegation led by Irish Foreign Minister Dick Sping began talks with Egyptian President

Hosni Mubarak, who is due to open the three-day economic conference on Tuesday.

French Minister of Foreign Trade Yves Galland,

(Continued on page 12)

Jordanian delegation meets

CAIRO (Petra) — Minister of Trade and Industry Ali Abul Ragheb, head of the Jordanian delegation to the Cairo economic summit, Sunday chaired a meeting of the Jordanian public and private sectors delegation members and discussed the Jordanian participation in the summit.

Mr. Abul Ragheb described the Cairo Middle East and North Africa economic summit as a "forum to exchange views and ideas on economic development in the region." The minister said the summit "is a good and real opportunity to enhance economic potentials of the region which hasn't seen true development due to conflicts and wars over the years." He underscored the importance of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace which forms the foundation for economic development in the region.

Mr. Abul Ragheb said 14 members of the delegation would address the summit, covering the sectors of industry, mining, energy, water and tourism. The Jordanian delegation to the summit groups 32 participants from the public sector and 42 from the private sector.

Mr. Musa said, "I believe that what we are underlining at this conference now will work out better in the future." Mr. Musa expressed hope that "perhaps between now and the next conference there will be progress." "That is, if Mr. Netanyahu changes his mind..." he added.

MENA to correct 'misconception' that regional cooperation centres around Israel — Musa

on an Israeli peace, then, I'm sorry, there can be no peace. And this is the problem. He believes that he can have peace, territory and everything. But he will never have it. He will never get it. It is as if Mr. Netanyahu is not really living in real life," he added.

Mr. Musa said Egypt, through the MENA conference, sought to "correct" a "misconception" that the meetings on regional cooperation "centre around Israel" and "all deals have to go through Israel... any deal that does not involve Israel is not regional cooperation."

"In reality," he said, "the conference is for all countries in the region... to strike deals, to sit together, to interact, with or without Israel."

"Israel is not the centre of gravity in the region," said Mr. Musa, who was joined at the press conference by World Economic Forum President Klaus Schaub.

Israel will be attending the conference "as a normal country like any other," he said. "This is the contribution or the message that this conference will convey to everyone. We are correcting the misconception of regional cooperation."

No breakthrough on Hebron expected during Cairo meeting

CAIRO (Agencies) — Chances for concluding a deal on Israeli redeployment in Hebron dimmed Monday as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat failed to clinch an agreement during a phone call Sunday and American sources accompanying U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher who was scheduled to meet with Mr. Arafat here Monday evening downplayed expectations for any progress during the Cairo economic conference.

Mr. Arafat, who met with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa, rejected Israeli reports that a deal on Hebron could be signed in two days. "We are not expecting any dramatic progress on Hebron," a U.S. State Department official who accompanied Mr. Christopher told reporters. "We are still working on it," he

said in reference to U.S. mediation to secure an agreement on the long-delayed Israeli withdrawal from Hebron.

"There will not be a lot of action in Cairo on Hebron because the focus is economic," the official said. U.S. Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross, who has been mediating accompanied Mr. Christopher to Cairo, was not expected to return to Israel or the Palestinian territories in the near future, the official said. Mr. Ross, who has said he would only return if signs emerge of a compromise on Hebron, will head back home on Wednesday. A Palestinian negotiator said that "Netanyahu called Arafat last night (Sunday) and he reiterated his commitment to implementing the deals, but as far as we are concerned this is only a verbal commitment."

"It is not translated in the (Continued on page 12)

Jews flock to Hebron

HEBRON (Agencies) — In a prayer protest against a planned Israeli troop redeployment, hundreds of Jews flocked to Hebron Monday, a day after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's phone call to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat failed to break the deadlock in talks on the city's future.

Ultra-orthodox Jews in black coats and hats marched through the streets of downtown Hebron to the Tomb of the Patriarch, a fortress-like building sacred to both Muslims and Jews. Israeli soldiers, assault

rifles at the ready, guarded the marchers as they passed a bustling crowded Palestinian outdoor market. "We came to Hebron, where our forefathers are, to pray to them so the Israeli army will not pull out of Hebron," said Shlomo Ingber, 20, a Jewish seminary student from New York who is spending a few months in occupied Jerusalem. "The people feel that this may be the last time they see Hebron." A leading Israeli rabbi, meanwhile, said the 350 (Continued on page 12)

Heavy fighting north of Kabul, refugees flee Badghis

KABUL (Agencies) — Fighting on the frontlines north of the Afghanistan capital Kabul intensified on Monday, with the Taliban militia and its opponents exchanging tank, artillery and rocket rounds.

A Taliban commander on the so-called Old Road, which runs up the western side of the broad valley north of Kabul, said the fighting there had moved closer to his positions.

"The fighting is closer than yesterday," the commander told Reuters. It was not possible to reach the front to see how far the lines have moved.

Separately, fighting between the two sides in the remote northwestern province of Badghis has forced 40,000 to 50,000 Afghans to flee their homes, a U.N. refugee agency said.

The main front lines are some 20 to 25 kilometres north of Kabul, in a broad valley that runs from Kabul to the foothills of the Hindu Kush.

The anti-Taliban alliance, comprising forces loyal to the ousted government and those of northern leader General Abdul Rashid Dostum, have been trying for almost three weeks to capture a range of low hills that bisects the valley.

Despite numerous attacks by alliance forces the lines near Kabul have remained largely static.

Taliban tanks were moving up the Old Road towards the northern front line, braving air-raids by alliance jets. Artillery rounds kicked up huge plumes of smoke and dust on the road, obscuring the tanks.

Intensive artillery barrages could be heard around the

frontlines across the valley.

An alliance jet dropped a single bomb on Kabul's airport early on Monday morning. There were no reports of casualties or damage.

The Taliban militia seized Kabul on Sept. 27 and now control nearly 75 per cent of the country.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said in a statement on Monday that fighting in Badghis province has forced 40,000 to 50,000 Afghans to flee their homes.

"Around 45,000 people from small towns and villages in front-line areas in Badghis province have fled southwards to the town of Qala-e-Nau," the statement said.

Another 2,000 to 3,000 people have already proceeded further south to Herat.

"More people are arriving in Herat every day, some after walking for several days and nights," the statement said. "A camp set up in Herat last Wednesday is already full."

The UNHCR said it had agreed with the Taliban, who have held the western city of Herat since September 1995, to let the newly-displaced people use another camp that normally houses Afghan refugees returning from neighbouring Iran. That camp, too, was filling up fast, it added.

The Taliban have been locked in see-saw battles in Badghis with the combined forces of Gen. Dostum and ousted government commander Ahmad Shah Masood.

The battle for Badghis, a relatively remote province, is important because success there for the Taliban could open up an invasion route into Gen. Dostum's northern heartland.

On the other hand, a Taliban defeat in Badghis could lay Herat open to attack by Gen. Dostum and allied forces loyal to the city's former Governor Ismail Khan.

Afghans have constituted the world's biggest refugee population for the past 14 years. About 3.8 million have returned home since 1989, when the Soviet occupation ended, but more than a million remain in Pakistan and 1.4 million in Iran.

Rabbani in Iran

Meanwhile, ousted Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani arrived in Iran on Monday for a one-day visit, the official Iranian news agency IRNA reported.

It said Mr. Rabbani, who is supported by Iran, will hold talks with senior officials including first Vice-President Hassan Habibi and Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati.

In Iran, Mr. Rabbani called on the new Pakistani government to cut off its support for the Taliban in Afghanistan. Mr. Rabbani told AFP he favoured "friendly relations with all neighbours of Afghanistan, including Pakistan."

"We hope the interim government in Islamabad will correct the mistakes of the last administration and does no longer interfere in Afghanistan's internal affairs," he said. "We are waiting to see what changes are made for improving relations with Pakistan."

Mr. Rabbani repeatedly accused the former government of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of militarily backing the militia.



Afghan Islamic Taleban fighters cause dust and smoke to rise as they make their way in a Soviet-built tank to the frontline more than 30 kilometres north of Kabul on November 11. Fierce exchanges of rockets and artillery continued throughout the morning (Reuters photo)

Jewish mystics want to hunt for Moses' tomb on Mount Nebo

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — A group of Israeli Jewish mystics have asked Jordan for permission to hunt for the grave of Moses on Mount Nebo and while awaiting a reply have made do with religious ceremonies on the nearby border with the West Bank. Israeli press reports said Monday.

A group of rabbis inspired by the cabal, the Jewish mystical tradition, have already obtained authorisation from the Israeli army to set up a prayer camp in the heavily guarded and mined military zone facing

Mount Nebo, the mass circulation Yediot Aharonot reported.

The group's leader, Rabbi David Batzeri of Jerusalem, told the newspaper he had asked both Jordan and the Israeli army for helicopters to search for the grave of Moses.

While awaiting their reply, Rabbi Batzeri and his followers blow a ram's horn and dance around Jewish holy books along the border near Jericho, calling out the name of Moses. According to the Torah, the burial place of Moses "is not known," a

reference rabbis interpret as meaning that God wanted the grave hidden to discourage pilgrims and worship of the patriarch.

Muslim tradition places the grave of Moses on the western bank of the Jordan River near Jericho, but the cabalists cite references in the Bible they say indicate he was laid to rest on Mount Nebo.

Rabbi Batzeri told the Yediot Aharonot he and his followers launched their quest in the belief that Moses might be the one to save Israel "from the crisis it is now facing."

General urges Israel to discuss nuclear control with Arabs

AMMAN (J.T.) — A senior military official has called on Israel to break a two-year-old logjam in Middle East arms control negotiations by agreeing to discuss nuclear disarmament.

Major General Marouf Bakhit, a member of the Jordanian general staff and vice president for military affairs at Mu'ta University, said Israel cannot achieve security in the region by refusing to discuss what the Arabs regard as the chief threat in the region: Israel's purported nuclear arsenal. His remarks appeared in the Nov. 8 issue of the Israeli English-language Jerusalem Post newspaper.

"The Arabs perceive that Israel's refusal to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) now or at any time is an attempt to maintain their strength over the Arab states," Gen. Bakhit told a conference on "War in a Changing World," held at Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies.

"From the onset, Jordan has drawn a distinction between peace and security," Gen. Bakhit added. "Peace can be obtained contractually. Security must be earned," Gen. Bakhit, the highest ranking military officer in the Jordanian delegation to the multilateral arms control talks, said Egypt has led the Arab position in pressing for Israel to discuss nuclear issues. The result has been a suspension of the arms control talks, called ACRES, since 1994.

The general said Jordan supports the Egyptian position but wants the arms control talks to continue despite Arab continuities with Israel.

Israel, which has pledged to observe the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty on nuclear weapons, has said it will not discuss nuclear issues until all the states in the region, including Iran and Iraq, sign peace treaties. Last year, then Prime Minister Shimon Peres said Israel would agree to start nuclear disarmament talks two years after the conclusion of comprehensive peace.

But Gen. Bakhit was quoted as dismissing the notion of waiting for that to take place.

"We don't need to spend so much time to decide whether the peripheral states (Iran, Iraq) are so relevant," he said. The interest here is to move forward."

The newspaper quoted Gen. Bakhit as saying that he understands Israel's objection to a discussion of nuclear issues. Israel's concern, he said, is that a purported nuclear arsenal deters Arab attack. That approach, he said, might be outdated. "Israel's threat assessment hasn't changed since 1948," he said. "Their view is that the Arabs want to talk of NPT first in an attempt to take away Israel's deterrence."

[Text of Gen. Bakhit's address to the conference will appear in the Jordan Times tomorrow].

Sudan urges Egypt to help stop U.N. sanctions

CAIRO (AFP) — Sudanese Foreign Minister Ali Osman Mohammad Taha has urged Egypt to play a "positive role" to stop the United Nations from imposing an air embargo on Sudanese planes later this month.

"What is needed from Egypt now is a clearer and more positive role aimed at stopping sanctions against Sudan," Mr. Taha said in statements published Monday by the Saudi daily Al Sharq Al Awsat.

"If political pressure considerations win the decision will leave negative impacts on relations between Sudan and the concerned countries, namely Egypt ... and it will affect Sudan's unity and security," Mr. Taha said.

The U.N. Security Council decided in August to impose an air embargo on international flights of the national Sudanese carrier.

Sudan Airways, unless it handed over suspects accused of involvement in a bid to assassinate Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in June 1995 in Ethiopia.

The U.N. is expected to set a date for this embargo later this month.

In May, the Security Council imposed diplomatic sanctions on Sudan, which is accused by several countries, including Egypt, of harbouring Islamic fundamentalist militants.

Mr. Taha said his country briefed U.N. envoy Lakhdar Brahimi last month on the "humanitarian and economic" repercussions further sanctions will have on Sudan, which has repeatedly denied any knowledge of the whereabouts of the suspects.

Mr. Taha meanwhile denied that Iranian mediation between Sudan and Uganda was a threat to anyone in the region.

Last week, Mr. Taha met his Ugandan counterpart Eriya Kategaya in Tehran to discuss ways of reaching an agreement to end their border conflict.

Relations between the two countries were severed last year amid mutual accusations that they were supporting each other's rebels.

U.N. finds fault with probe

Probes by Sudanese groups into slavery and other human rights abuses glossed over available data and shed little light on the alleged horrors, according to a U.N. report released over the weekend.

Guspar Biro of Hungary, the special U.N. human rights rapporteur for Sudan, said he found it encouraging the government had appointed committees to investigate abuses and had opened a centre for traumatised children in Khartoum.

Shiite leaders deny existence of Hizbollah-Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Shiite deputies on Monday said they had no knowledge of the existence of a Kuwaiti branch of Hizbollah, dismissing as baseless a local report about the Iranian-linked Muslim fundamentalist group.

The Kuwait daily Al Rai Al Aam said on Sunday a group called Hizbollah-Kuwait had split into three factions after Kuwaiti legislative elections on Oct. 7, while Iranian efforts to mend the rifts had failed.

Shiite Muslim cleric Hussein Qallaf, a newly elected deputy to the national assembly, or parliament, said the report was "completely false," and that he had no links with such a party nor did he know if Hizbollah Kuwait existed.

"If it is not present, how can there be any

relations?" he told AFP, adding that he had travelled to Iran recently on a "religious visit" but had no political contacts with the Islamic republic.

The report in Al Rai Al Aam said Mr. Qallaf and re-elected Shiite deputy Adnan Abdel Samad were leaders of the splinter groups that had emerged in Hizbollah-Kuwait, and had gone to Iran to try to patch up differences.

Political parties are banned in Kuwait, but informal groups such as the liberal Kuwait Democratic Forum and the fundamentalist Islamic Constitutional Movement are represented in Parliament. Shiite Muslims account for between 20 per cent and 30 per cent of the Kuwaiti population of 700,000 people.

Islamist mayor prompts row over Turkey's secularism

ANKARA (AFP) — Insults by an Islamist official against the founder of modern Turkey have angered the country's secular circles who launched a campaign Monday for his sacking.

"At a time when my religion is being insulted by those secular ones, it was a pain for me to have to attend the Nov. 10 ceremony," said Sakir Karatepe, mayor of the central town of Kayseri and a member of the pro-Islamic Welfare Party of Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan.

He was referring to Sunday's nationwide ceremonies marking the 58th anniversary of the death of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, who founded the Turkish republic on secular principles in 1923.

"I, as an official, had to take part in that ceremony although reluctantly. But the Muslim people of this country should always keep their anger, their hatred against secularism that persecutes our religion," Mr. Karatepe

told a meeting in Kayseri, according to the Turkish press.

Mr. Karatepe's remarks caused an uproar among secular politicians, and mainstream newspapers accused him of trying to divide the Turkish people into two opposite categories of Muslims and seculars.

"The Kayseri mayor has openly provoked the people against Turkey's regime. The interior ministry should immediately sack him," said Bulent Ecevit, leader of the Democratic Left Party, the fourth largest group in Parliament.

Minister vows to fight Mafia

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Meral Aksener vowed on Monday to fight organised crime as she took up her post from a predecessor who stood down after a scandal linking a top police official with a gangster.

organised crime, terrorism and drugs will continue," Ms. Aksener, Turkey's first woman interior minister, said at a ceremony where she took over from Mehmet Agar.

Mr. Agar resigned on Friday in the wake of a crash in which a mobster wanted for political killings and drug dealing died in the same car as a senior security official and a former beauty queen.

Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan and his deputy Tansu Ciller had both denied any links between the mysterious crash and the resignation. Mr. Agar said he resigned to clear the way for a parliamentary investigation.

Deputies are scheduled to discuss alleged links between the state and organised crime on Tuesday and vote on whether to hold an investigation.

According to media reports, Mr. Agar stayed in the same hotel as the crash victims in the Aegean resort of Kusadasi shortly before the accident.

JORDAN TELEVISION

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PROGRAMME TWO

14:05 Budgie
14:25 Oscar's Orchestra
14:40 Comedy - I Love Lucy
15:00 Sciences Cartoon
15:15 Magazine - Montaigne
16:00 At The Zoo
16:30 My Secret Identity
17:00 News Flash
17:01 Fun With Physics
17:15 Road To Avonlea
18:00 La Lumiere des Justes
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 Magazine - Extra Large
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Murphy Brown
20:00 Magazine - Zero One
20:30 Encounter
21:10 Star Trek
22:00 News in English
22:25 China Beach
23:15 Mission Impossible
23:59 Are You Being Served?

PRAYER TIMES

04:37 Fajr
05:57 (Sunrise) Duha
11:20 Dhur
14:17 'Asr
16:43 Maghreb
18:02 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweifich, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church

Tel. 632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366

Anglican Church Tel. 652826

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 652526

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking

Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Dry and dusty weather condi-

tions will prevail with tempera-

tures slightly higher than average

and winds southeasterly

moderate to active. In Aqaba,

winds will be northerly active

and seas calm.

Amman 10/25

Aqaba 17/32

Deserts 08/25

Jordan Valley 19/31

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 23, Aqaba 32 Humidity

readings: Amman 23 per cent,

Aqaba 24 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Hanna Mansour 750197

Dr. Ali Shukri 808863

Dr. Nidal Al Dahleh 827195

Dr. Sa'id Jawfi 788285

Ferdows pharmacy 778336

Al Asena pharmacy 657055

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 624945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Nairokh pharmacy 623672

Najih pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Qanu 281484

Al Quds pharmacy 1

ZARQA:

Dr. Rathi Attallah 994122

Khalifeh pharmacy 85417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Dept 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 109

Rescue Police 192 621111

657777

Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 806394

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 81381332

Khalidi Maternity 644281/6

Akileh Maternity 642441/26

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malhas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 610701

Shmeisani Hospital 649131

University Hospital 845815

Al-Mushar Hospital 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 6612937

Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641648

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3

Al-Bashir 775111/26

Army, Marka 891611/5

Queen Alia Hospital 0224050

Amal Hospital 674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09/83323

Zarqa National Hospital 09/80560

Ibn Sina Hospital 09/86732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital 09/99190

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital 02/275555

Greek Catholic Hospital 02/272775

Ibn Al Nafes Hospital 02/247100

FOR THE TRAVELLER

Crown Prince meets with visiting Chinese MP

AMMAN (Petra) — HRH Crown Prince Hassan Monday met with a visiting Chinese parliamentary delegation led by Speaker Chao Chi and the group reviewed methods of promoting bilateral relations.

Prince Hassan stated his hope that China will extend its social, economic and political cooperation to West Asia on the same basis as it has with East Asia.

The Prince also said that the developing nations of West Asia have spent more

than \$200 billion on arms subsequent to the Gulf war while needing only \$35 billion to reconstruct infrastructure.

Mr. Chi conveyed an invitation from the Chinese leadership to Prince Hassan to visit China. Prince Hassan accepted the invitation and promised to make the visit next year.

Also Monday, Mr. Chao Chi's spouse visited the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) where she was briefed on its activities by Executive Director Ibrahim

Badran.

Ms. Chi paid tribute to the foundation's work and watched a documentary film on the development of the NHF and the projects it has been implementing in Jordan.

She then donated 50 sewing machines as a gift from the Chinese government to the foundation to be used in its vocational training programmes for women.

Dr. Badran thanked her and said that the NHF will use the gift to help promote women's societal role.



HRH Princess Basma Monday admires embroidered costumes at the opening of the annual Muab Charitable Society exhibition (Petra photo)

Princess opens annual Muab Society exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — HRH Princess Basma Monday opened the annual Muab Charitable Society exhibition, organised as part of the Kingdom's observance of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday.

The Princess toured the exhibition, held at the King Hussein Youth Centre in Amman, and admired embroidered costumes on display.

Society President Nayfeh Majali explained that the society, established in 1959 in the Karak governorate, focuses on supporting women, children and rural development.

She added that the society has established kindergartens, a children's club and women's vocational training courses in dress making, knitting, and typing in order to qualify them for production work.

The society coordinates activities with the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF). Ms. Majali said.

Also Monday, Princess Basma chaired a meeting of the coordination committee for non-governmental organisations, formed by the Jordanian National Committee for Women (JNCW). Discussion covered the

work of the coordination committee in light of a recent decision of the council of ministers which named the JNCW as the sole spokesperson for all women-related issues.

The JNCW decided that its members are obligated to confirm that non-governmental organisation plans are implemented within a fixed timeframe while assuring that no programme duplication occurs.

The committee's 1996 plans include programme preparations regarding projects to be executed in 1997.

Queen opens art display on Petra

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday opened an art exhibition of photo panels and mosaics by Baroness Elsa Renata Von Joest, known in the art world as Yona Joest, entitled "Petra — a Cosmological Dialogue" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Baroness Joest, who has visited Jordan several times, describes herself as "enamoured" with Petra where she shot nearly 120 rolls of films from which 50 photographs have been enlarged for the exhibition, a Royal Court statement said.

She has also shipped two tonnes of Jordanian marble to Germany where she produced several mosaic murals depicting cosmic, mythological and biblical scenes as well as a map of the Kingdom.

The exhibition, which has been organised in cooperation with the German Embassy and the Goethe Institute, will run until November 30, the statement said.

Baroness Joest's family donated the "Museum der Stadt" in Köln, Germany where a Jordanian exhibition entitled "The Kings' Way: 9,000 years of art and culture in Jordan and Palestine" was held in 1990 under the patronage of Queen Noor.

The Queen was received by the German Embassy Charge d'Affaires Mr. Matthias Ohne Muller, Director of the Goethe Institute Dr. Dieter Glade, Baroness Joest and her two nephews.

MENA conference opens today with 80 countries participating

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Monday dispatched a delegation to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference due to open today in Cairo with 80 nations participating.

The meeting will be inaugurated by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb, who arrived in Cairo at the head of the delegation, said that he will submit reports concerning 34 projects valued at \$3.7 billion and that these projects cover industry, mining, energy, water and tourism.

He said that some of these projects require international financing and cooperation.

The minister described the conference as a chance for businessmen and governments alike to exchange

views connected with the economic development of the MENA region.

Mr. Abul Ragheb said in a statement on the eve of the meeting that "the absence of a just and comprehensive regional peace will have a negative impact on the conference," and that "stability and peace are pre-requisites for development and prosperity."

The estimated 3,000 delegates are expected to discuss governmental roles as well as those of general policies in helping to create an opportune climate for investments and attracting capital to finance projects, according to the Jordan News Agency Petra.

The agency said that the role of banks and financial institutions in the pursuit of this goal will also be debated.

The three-day meeting will tackle varied subjects such as reforms and modernisation of laws and legislation in order to encourage economic growth, enhancing the regional market economy system, prospects of creating a MENA Development Bank whose existence was approved at the last conference.

Mr. Abul Ragheb is accompanied by a delegation representing the Jordanian public sector including ministers of: post and communications, planning, finance, transport, the governor of the Central Bank, Jordan's ambassador to the United States, Jordan's ambassador to Belgium, Jordan's ambassador to Israel and senior officials and advisors in other departments.

The private sector is headed by Jawad Anani and groups representatives of the business community, semi-governmental departments and professional unions.

Meanwhile, in Cairo, the MENA steering committee convened Monday to finalise arrangements for the conference.

Committee chairman Taleb Rifai said that the meeting covered the conference agenda and examined a number of reports about the global economy.

The steering committee groups representatives of the U.S., Russia, Canada, the European Union, Japan, Jordan, Egypt, Israel, Palestine, Tunisia, Morocco and Qatar.

Bataineh signs health protocols in Algeria

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Aref Bataineh Monday returned to Amman after a week-long visit to Algeria, describing talks with the country's government leaders as "extremely successful."

Dr. Bataineh, who was accompanied by an official delegation, said that discussions in Algeria centred upon health cooperation and that two protocols were signed with the Algerians in pursuit of that goal.

"The first protocol," he explained "provides for the treatment of Algerian patients in the Kingdom's public and private hospitals, especially patients requiring heart surgery,

those with inefficient or irregular kidneys and blood cells and bilateral teams will soon meet in order to design a mechanism for implementing the agreement."

The minister explicated the first protocol as equally providing for Algerian physicians to receive training in the Kingdom and for dispatching Jordanian medical specialists to administer special surgical operations to Algeria in the course of medical training.

"Under the second protocol," Dr. Bataineh said, "the two countries will facilitate pharmaceutical product exchanges and will consider any medicine registered in one country as

automatically registered in the other."

He also stated that the two sides agreed on launching joint pharmaceutical production in Algeria as well as the creation of a special firm to market the medication.

The second protocol also stipulates that the two countries will exchange manufacturing expertise, industry personnel training and carry out joint marketing of medication produced by either country.

Dr. Bataineh said that agreement was also reached on sending the first consignment of Jordanian medicines to Algeria in the next few weeks and that blood banks in Algeria and

Jordan will exchange information on controlling and organising the storage of blood and blood plasma.

During his visit, Dr. Bataineh and his delegation toured several hospitals and health institutions and inspected Algerian pharmaceutical firms.

The minister was also received by Algerian Prime Minister Ahmad Yahya to review bilateral relations and subsequently held a meeting with Speaker of the Algerian National Assembly Abdel Qader Ben Saleh who expressed his hope that the two countries would exchange visits at governmental and non-governmental levels to promote bilateral ties.

Minister to attend global hunger seminar

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian delegation, led by Minister of Agriculture Mustafa Sheikhat, will represent Jordan at the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) meeting, due to open Wednesday in Rome.

Mr. Sheikhat left Monday for the five-day meeting, saying that topics to be discussed will in great part cover hunger and malnutrition eradication as well as ensuring global food security.

He said that the various ministers of agriculture in the non-aligned nations have reached a unified declaration to be presented to the conference containing a request that advanced nations finance agricultural projects in developing countries.

FAO Secretary General Jacques Diouf said that "food production must increase by more than 75

per cent in the next 30 years if it is to keep pace with population growth. We must be ready by the year 2025 to feed approximately 9 billion people as compared to the present 5.8 billion."

The organisation has also invited heads of state to the so-called "food for everyone" summit with the aim of achieving global consensus at the highest levels. Mr. Diouf said, adding that participants will be asked to approve a joint statement and plan of action directed toward hunger eradication.

The FAO has stated that in developing countries alone some 800 million people are chronically undernourished, including 200 million children.

Millions more are poorly fed and have no access to clean drinking water, the organisation

said.

The FAO additionally maintains that starvation and malnourishment cannot be abolished through food aid alone.

What is needed, officials have said, is augmented agricultural efforts in affected countries so as to raise self-sufficiency.

Dr. Sheikhat said that the participants will review nationally endorsed reports regarding the halt of mass starvation and the exploitation of available natural resources to achieve that goal.

He will be accompanied by a ministry delegation, the Jordanian women's unions, university teachers and Head of the Jordan Consumer Protection Society Mohammad Obeidat.

NEWS IN BRIEF

French president cables house speakers

AMMAN (Petra) — House Speakers Ahmad Lawzi and Sa'ad Hayel Srour Monday received a cable from French President Jacques Chirac in which he expressed his appreciation of the warm and cordial welcome he received in Parliament and the Kingdom.

Moroccan minister meets with Abul Ragheb

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Trade and Industry Ali Abul Ragheb Monday met with Moroccan Minister of Foreign Trade Mohammad Alami and the two discussed means to activate bilateral agreements in trade and economic fields.

Atomic energy cooperation discussed

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hashem Dabbas Monday received West Asian International Atomic Energy Agency's Director General S. Choudry to review cooperation in atomic and other energy issues.

What's Going On

JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL

• "Toursan Becoming a Priest" (comedy) at the University of Jordan, Samir Al Rifai's auditorium at 5:30 p.m.

FILM

• Children's film "Super Ted" at the British Council at 5:00 p.m.
• German film "Mathias Kneissl" at Goethe-Institut, Jabal Amman at 7:00 p.m. (with subtitles in English).
• Spanish film "Bewitched Love" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

• Works by Monkith Sa'id and Bert Hermens entitled "Untitled Diary" at Balqa Art Gallery, Fuheis, until Nov. 21.
• Photo panels and mosaics exhibition by German artist Yona Joest entitled "Petra — A Cosmological Dialogue" at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Nov. 30.

• Photography exhibition "Al Aqsa Uprisings" by Khalid Al Zagbawi at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman, until Nov. 22.
• Works by twenty-four artists (from Iraq, Holland, Lebanon, Vietnam, Spain, Greece, Curacao, Indonesia, Russia, and Chile) entitled Houd and Hamer "Art in Cultural Transmission" at the Royal Society of Fine Art, Jabal Weibdeh until Nov. 30.
• Photo exhibition by Basma Asfour entitled "Doubles Regards" at the French Cultural Centre, until Nov. 28.
• Works by Maha Abu Ghosh at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman, until Nov. 16.
• Exhibition of works by Zurich-based Jordanian artist Nabil Shehadeh at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh. Also displaying works by Jordanian artist Mohammad Nasrallah and works by contemporary artists, until Nov. 13.
• Exhibition of "Visual Forms" by Abdul Latif Al Smoodi at Baladan Art Gallery, Gardens street, until Nov. 15.

Music as "mathematics wrapped in emotion" — Salim Abdul Karim

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The celebrated Iraqi musician Salim Abdul Karim is currently visiting Jordan, en route to Japan. He is taking the time to meditate, to meet with local fellow musicians and to bravely debate a few essential issues about music with journalists and intellectuals in the Kingdom.

Mr. Abdul Karim belongs to that rare breed of musicians who possess a culture of such quality and a vision of art so wide that the word "musician" can hardly do him justice. Nor is his masters degree in mathematics to be taken lightly. He seems to give as much credit to this aspect of his education for his success as to his High Arts Diploma in music. He describes music as "mathematics wrapped in emotion."

Salim Abdul Karim was head of the Oriental Music Department in the Ballet and Music School of Baghdad from 1976 to

1990 and dean of the Iraq Institute for Music Studies from 1990 to 1996. His time now is entirely dedicated to composition, and to playing, teaching and lecturing. He has written more than 250 pieces including four symphonies and numerous songs.

Like most modern composers in the Arab World, Mr. Abdul Karim refuses the artificial walls juxtaposing occidental and oriental styles, although he admits there are some "obvious differences." He plays the piano and the classical guitar. His first speciality however is the oud (oriental lute). Considered one of the greatest living masters of this instrument, Mr. Abdul Karim has been the teacher of performers who have become stars in their own right — like Naseer Shamma who gave two memorable performances in Amman in 1991.

He is an innovator, evidenced by his creation of a new technique in music notation as well as a device for teaching music

to the blind — innovations for which he holds two patents.

Perhaps the most impressive and pleasing aspect of his talent remains his virtuosity and musicianship in oud performance. Mr. Abdul Karim manages to display amazing technique without ever giving the leading role — his first aim is to touch the listener. Whether improvising or playing compositions he delivers a truly musical message before anything else. He has his priorities right.

In an interview with the Jordan Times in his room in Amman, Salim Abdul Karim expressed genuine, transparent and true passion for his art. Beyond academic degrees, beyond the magic of his concert last month at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman, beyond even technical achievements like his extraordinary composition for 28 ouds, he remains an authentic musician deeply in love with his art.



Salim Abdul Karim

Slovenia premier faces difficult choice after mixed election result

LJUBLJANA (AFP) — Slovenia's centre-left Prime Minister Janez Drnovsek won most votes in weekend elections but Monday faced tough choices forming a coalition and a possible setback to his plans for speedy entry to EU and NATO membership.

In Sunday's vote in this tiny country, sandwiched between Croatia and Austria, Mr. Drnovsek's Liberal-Democratic Party (LDS) garnered 27.05 per cent according to preliminary official results. The 46-year-old popular prime minister was confident Monday he could bring together a new coalition.

But the LDS's coalition partners since the last elections in 1992, the Christian Democratic Party (SKD), saw its support decline to 9.53 per cent from 14.5 in the previous poll while two rightwing parties saw a surge in support.

Both have misgivings about Mr. Drnovsek's drive

for speedy membership in both the European Union and NATO. Mr. Drnovsek would like Slovenia — an associate member of the EU since June this year — to be in the first wave of countries to be admitted to the two organizations.

The conservative parties, the Centre-Right Popular Party (SLS) and the Social Democratic Party (SDS), believe Slovenian agriculture and its steel industry are not ready for membership.

The SLS came second with 19.48 per cent of the vote on a campaign aimed at rural voters who are concerned over the increased competition they fear would follow on from joining the 15-member European Union.

The SDS came in third with 16.12 per cent on an appeal to those voters who have suffered during the country's transition to a market economy.

"For Drnovsek, the ideal

would probably be an LDS-SLS-SDK coalition" which would have 53 seats in the 90 seat parliament, the country's main newspaper, wrote Monday.

However, the paper said the prime minister might be forced to include SDS leader Janez Jansa. A former defence minister, Mr. Jansa is likely to be more dangerous in opposition, the paper said.

Mr. Jansa, defence minister during 10 days of hostilities that followed Slovenia's 1991 declaration of independence from Yugoslavia, appears to have abandoned his own plans to form a coalition with the SLS and the SDK.

Relations between the leaders of the three parties are notoriously bad and they were unable to form an electoral alliance before the polls for this reason.

Slovenia's complex proportional voting system makes it impossible for any

party to win an absolute majority and coalition governments are inevitable.

President Milan Kucan, a former Communist, is bound by the constitution to ask Drnovsek to form a new government. If Drnovsek fails, he can then ask someone else.

There was no official figure for turnout in Sunday's poll, but it appeared to be about 70 per cent — 15 points less than for the last legislative polls in 1992.

Only two of the 19 small parties contesting the election appeared likely to pass the threshold to enter the 90-seat national assembly. They are the leftwing Democratic Pensioners' Party (DESUS) which had 4.31 per cent and the extreme-right SNS National Party which had 3.22 per cent.

Traditionally, two seats are also reserved for the Hungarian and Italian minorities in the northeast and west respectively.

Bhutto to take fight to court

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said Monday she will lodge an appeal with the supreme court in the next two days asking that she be restored to power.

Ms. Bhutto told Reuters television in an interview that she considered her sacking last week by President Farooq Leghari to be "a constitutional coup, a presidential coup and an act against democracy."

"I consider it to be illegal," she said, speaking at the prime minister's spacious official residence, which she said she would vacate Tuesday.

"I shall go to the supreme court of Pakistan and I hope the supreme court will restore the national assembly."

Ms. Bhutto said she planned to hold a meeting with lawyers Monday. "I hope we can wrap it (the appeal) up. If we do, it will be filed tomorrow. Otherwise, the latest by the day after."

She said the legal petition would state that the allegations which Leghari levelled against her government were false, and that the ostensible aim of the presidential order — to hold free, fair and impartial elections — was also false.

Mr. Leghari's order dismissing Ms. Bhutto's government cited corruption, mismanagement and extrajudicial killings among other accusations which he said had virtually paralysed the government.

Ms. Bhutto, wearing a bright purple silk "shalwar kameez" and a beige headscarf, said she felt betrayed by Mr. Leghari, who once served in her cabinet and was handpicked by her to become president in 1993. She said he should step down.

"The president...should have first asked the prime minister for a vote of confidence," she said, claiming



Benazir Bhutto

she had been a victim of a smear campaign.

Ms. Bhutto, 43, said she was confident the supreme court would rule as it did in 1993 when it overturned a presidential order sacking former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Mr. Sharif was restored to power but later resigned under pressure.

Ms. Bhutto's legal challenge would be one of several which are expected to shift Pakistan's political crisis to the courts.

Interim Prime Minister Miraj Khalid told reporters Sunday that his government was drawing up charges against Ms. Bhutto and her husband, Asif Ali Zardari. Asked if they would include criminal charges, he said: "All kinds of charges."

Mr. Khalid, who is a member of Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) but distanced himself from her some time ago, did not spell out the charges but

said they were expected this week.

He acknowledged they could include the alleged breach of human rights in Karachi, where some 375 people have been killed this year in ethnic and political strife.

The 43-year-old Bhutto is no stranger to courtroom battles. She was sacked in 1990 after 20 months in power and indicted on eight counts of abuse of power.

But courts cleared her of the charges, one by one, and she staged a comeback, winning re-election in 1993.

Ms. Bhutto's dismissal last week stirred no big protests or violence. Only small numbers of soldiers were deployed on the day she was removed from power, and they quickly returned to barracks.

Many citizens expressed relief her government had been sacked, citing inflation and widespread reports of corruption.

Angry spirits seek revenge against Imelda Marcos

MANILA (R) — The ghosts who dwell near the site of this year's annual APEC ministerial meeting are angry, very angry indeed, and they want revenge. "They really want justice from the family of the Marcoses. They are the ones who killed them," Jocelyn Buenafe, a university lecturer and real-life Filipino ghostbuster, told Reuters. Buenafe and some 40 other members of a group who call themselves "Questors" held a seance recently in the deserted former film centre to contact the spirits of workers killed there in an accident in 1981.

A still undetermined number of workers died when a scaffolding came crashing down on Nov. 17, 1981, while work was on to complete the building in time for an international film festival, a pet project of then first lady Imelda Marcos. The corpses were not recovered for the proper funeral rites that are deeply important to Filipinos. The bodies were simply entombed in cement and work continued. The building was finished on schedule. The complex also includes the Philippine International Convention Centre, where foreign ministers of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum will meet on Nov. 22 and 23.

Chinese media attacks drinking competition

BEIJING (AFP) — China's official media slammed Monday a recent drinking competition in the northern province of Hebei that attracted more than one thousand people. Boozing and brawling had crammed into a rowdy bar in Hebei city earlier this month for the ancient Chinese drinking game of "finger guessing" — widely

enjoyed by Chinese drinkers for thousands of years, with the loser having to drink as a punishment. Prizes were given to 60 people who won the preliminary contest and the top three winners were presented with the titles of "finger masters" and trophies.

"They conducted one ridiculous act after another, angering local residents," Guangming daily said in a report on the event. "Such an absurd event goes against the construction of socialist spiritual civilisation," the newspaper said, which also quoted several elderly communist party cadres who watched the contests. "Drinking and finger games are bad habits left over from the old society," one cadre said. Some also pointed out that finger guessing — which involves red-faced drinkers shouting and gesticulating at each other — was banned in public places. The winery had held four other drinking competitions, attracting thousands of participants with vigorous promotional campaigns, the newspaper said.

media links Japan to oil trade

An obscure Japanese oil company has a political overtone — showing number of people saying that a dealer now in the nation's key industries could be an

unidentified Japanese news agency said that a "powerful" lower house lawmaker received several letters from thousands of donors from million-dollar fund-raising

campaigns, the newspaper said. Koichi Kato, Mr. Izui at a few years ago 200,000 Yen of fund-raising. Kyodo said, having any ship with him series of scandals of improper government newsmen.

In one such scandal, then Finance Minister Masayoshi Tanaka was paid for his own personal business from business. One of the scandals of the 1980s re favours affair of the nation's my era of share prices. senior politician and business believed as shares of To information cosmos before listed and the scandal political furor downfall of Noboru Take 1989.

Explosions damage Muslim homes in Serb-controlled area

TUZLA. Bosnia-Herzegovina (Agencies) — Explosions leveled or badly damaged nine Muslim homes in a Serb-controlled area of a demilitarised zone near where U.S. troops were patrolling, police and aid officials said Sunday.

The incident, one of the worst since NATO-led troops arrived 11 months ago to separate Bosnia's warring sides and enforce peace, highlighted simmering tensions in areas where refugees want to return to their homes in areas controlled by rival factions.

The explosions occurred just after 11 p.m. Saturday in the villages of Brod and Omerbegovaca near the town of Brcko, said Andrea Angeli, spokesman for the international police force in northeastern Bosnia.

Ten U.S. soldiers with the NATO-led peace force, patrolling Brod on foot accompanied by a Bradley fighting vehicle, were within 15 metres of one of the houses when it exploded, said Randolph Ryan, an official with the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, who observed the incident. The gunner on the vehicle was nicked by a piece of flying brick, Ryan said.

Mladic's military staff defy president's decision

Meanwhile in Belgrade, Ratko Mladic's military staff, fired over the weekend along with the Bosnian Serb general, said Monday

it was still in charge of the military under his command.

Their defiant move was announced in a statement carried by the Yugoslav newspaper Blic.

"The military staff (of Mladic) totally commands the army and exercises absolute control over its units, from the largest to the smallest," the statement said.

Blic said the statement was passed on by telephone by "officials of the army staff" fired Saturday by the president of the Bosnian Serb entity, Biljana Plavsic.

These officials said the new staff installed by Ms. Plavsic was "parallel" to their own.

They said their dismissal hurt the Serb people and amounted to "a dangerous attempt to break up the army."

Gen. Mladic has been indicted on war crimes charges along with former Serb political leader Radovan Karadzic.

Mr. Plavsic move against Gen. Mladic heralded a long-anticipated clean-out of chiefs-of-staff designed to placate the international community with a major review of the Dayton peace process days away. Foreign ministers from the major powers involved in the Bosnian conflict meet in Paris Thursday to examine the former warring factions' level of compliance with the year-old peace agreement.

Armenian leader sworn into office amid controversy

YEREVAN (R) — Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan was sworn into office for another five years Monday, just two days before his disputed victory is to be reviewed by the constitutional court.

Mr. Ter-Petrosyan, hand resting on a Bible lying on top of a copy of the constitution, took the oath of office in a 15-minute ceremony in parliament.

Foreign diplomats looked on, but opposition deputies in parliament boycotted the ceremony.

"I pledge to be a guarantor of the independence, territorial integrity, and safety of Armenia," said the 51-year old academic, before being blessed by Garegin I. head of the Armenian church.

"I pledge to raise the moral spirit of the nation and to uphold democratic principles."

The central electoral commission says he beat Challenger Vazgen Manukyan in the Sept. 22 vote by 51.8 to 41.3 per cent, just clearing a 50 per cent hurdle to win in one round.

But foreign observers noted irregularities by Mr. Ter-Petrosyan's supporters and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) says they could have been serious enough to call his victory into question.

After the poll Mr. Ter-Petrosyan, a Soviet-era dissident, sent tanks into the streets, rounded up dozens of opponents, and closed

several political parties after demonstrations by Mr. Manukyan's backers turned violent.

The opposition was protesting at the alleged vote-rigging.

The constitutional court will begin hearing a protest by Mr. Manukyan Wednesday, who says he can prove the election results were falsified.

The 50-year old physicist, who feared arrest and spent several weeks in hiding, criticised Mr. Ter-Petrosyan for taking the oath just two days before the hearing starts and said he should temporarily resign while it is heard.

"This is not a violation of the law, but it is a violation of ethical principles. It is against unwritten laws. He should leave office while the constitutional court is hearing the case," he said in a statement.

Mr. Ter-Petrosyan looked grave and seemed to have lost weight as he formally began a new term at the helm of his small former Soviet republic which is embroiled in conflict with neighbouring Azerbaijan over the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The court, which could in theory annul Mr. Ter-Petrosyan's victory, has until Nov. 24 to make a decision.

But observers said the fact that all the court's judges were appointed either by Mr. Ter-Petrosyan or by parliament, which is overwhelmingly dominated by his political bloc, makes that possibility less likely.

Burma says weekend attacks on Suu Kyi 'act of sabotage'

RANGOON (R) — A senior Burmese government official said Monday weekend attacks on democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi were acts of sabotage from which the government had nothing to gain.

"We have launched an inquiry into the incident. We don't have an answer yet," the government official told Reuters in an interview. "There are lots of accusations out there."

On Saturday, Ms. Suu Kyi's motorcade was attacked twice by a crowd of people pelting the vehicles with stones, diplomats and witnesses said.

Ms. Suu Kyi, who emerged uninjured from the attacks, which smashed her car windshield and windows of other vehicles in the motorcades, blamed the military government for orches-

trating the attack. "The whole thing was carefully orchestrated by the authorities. What kind of government is it that allows such hoodlaming?" Ms. Suu Kyi said after the attacks.

But the official suggested the government had nothing to gain from such an attack. He said the attack came just as the secretary-general of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was leaving after a week-long visit to assess Burma's readiness to join the seven-nation regional group.

It was also on the eve of a visit by U.S. Senator John McCain, who met on Sunday with senior officials in the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) and Ms. Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy (NLD) party.

"Everything was going so smoothly and then this thing happened," the official said.

He noted that the United States recently passed a bill granting the president authority to impose economic sanctions on Burma if Ms. Suu Kyi was harmed or if the SLORC was seen as seriously increasing its suppression of the democracy movement.

"Who has been calling for sanctions?" he asked.

Ms. Suu Kyi has said she supports economic sanctions against Burma, and has also urged business people not to invest in Burma until the human rights and democracy situation improves.

"I would not say it's definitely the NLD side, but somebody out there committed an act of sabotage," the official said.

The president denied running the ANC "with an iron hand," saying that a leader "must rely on the power of persuasion and have the confidence to know that differences inside an organisation are healthy things."

Mr. Mandela, 78, confirmed that he would not seek a second term when his presidency runs out in

1999, saying that it would be "time to give way to younger men with fresh ideas."

"I don't want the country to be led by an octogenarian," he added.

Mr. Mandela has suffered from health problems this year and Mr. Mbeki has taken on added responsibilities as a result.

"The task of running the day-to-day affairs of government (is) devolving to him in his capacity as deputy president to which he was elected by the organisation," Mr. Mandela said.

The president denied running the ANC "with an iron hand," saying that a leader "must rely on the power of persuasion and have the confidence to know that differences inside an organisation are healthy things."

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Mandela denies having chosen successor

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — President Nelson Mandela, who on Monday celebrated the half-way point in his five-year term, has denied designating Deputy President Thabo Mbeki his successor, saying that only the African National Congress (ANC) can name a new leader.

"The president has no right to choose a successor and I never did so. When the president of the ANC steps down, the national executive committee or congress will elect a successor," he said in a long interview with the daily Sowetan.

He added however that he would support Mr. Mbeki if he were elected, describing him as a competent politician who deserved the position.

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Duchess's perfume deal falls through

LONDON (R) — Effort by Britain's disgraced Duchess of York to solve her financial woes with a perfume deal have fallen through, a spokeswoman for cosmetics giant Revlon said.

The duchess, popularly known as Fergie after her maiden name Sarah Ferguson, had hoped to make £6 million (\$10 million) from the deal to wipe out her highly publicised debts, the Sunday People newspaper reported. But Revlon spokeswoman Nancy Risdon said the plan never got off the ground. "A mutual acquaintance got the duchess in contact with Revlon," she told Reuters in a telephone interview. "They met and talked but could not find a basis on which to proceed. By mutual agreement both parties decided not to go further."

According to the Sunday People, Fergie would have marketed her own "Duchess" perfume.

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MISS WORLD BEAUTY CONTESTANTS: Eighty nine of the World's most beautiful women head to the beach in the Indian Ocean Seychelles island of Mahe last week, where they were to be judged in the swimsuit portion of the pageant. The women were flown to the Seychelles from the Indian city of Bangalore for the swimsuit portion of the pageant after protests against the event in the host city (Reuters photo)

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World News

U.N. accused of hampering Africa on crisis in Zaire

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi Monday lambasted the United Nations for calling on African states to meet the cost of participation in any peace force for eastern Zaire.

With refugees now feared to be dying in their thousands, Meles said the U.N. demand risked causing further delays.

The U.N. Security Council decision that the cost of the operation of (the neutral force to Zaire) should be borne by the participating countries ... Would naturally make it difficult for African countries to take part in this effort," Meles said. He was addressing the opening session of the conflict prevention committee of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), itself criticised for failing to come up with any meaningful response to the humanitarian crisis in Central Africa.

Last week, a summit of regional leaders in Nairobi called for a "neutral force" to be set up and funded by the Security Council, effectively handing back the issue to the International Community after earlier calls for a regional initiative.

"It is indeed a pity that when African countries have shown a clear disposition to fulfil their responsibilities and take the lead on matters affecting them directly, they are being denied an effective means to do this by the International Community," Meles added. Some 1.2 million Hutu refugees have fled their camps because of fighting between Tutsi rebels and the Zairean army. The United States denied Monday it was blocking creation of an international force to aid the refugees, saying it had still seen no coherent plan for assembling one.

Several ideas are on the table, but only France has launched a diplomatic campaign to try to secure international backing and Paris's motives are deeply distrusted by Rwanda, which supports the Tutsi rebellion. Meles said he also opposed a 20-day period proposed by



A Zairean refugee family who just crossed into Rwanda from Zaire wait for a UNHCR truck to take them to transit camp near the village of Mutura Monday. About 300 refugees crossed the border Sunday morning (Reuters photo)

ing it had still seen no coherent plan for assembling one. Several ideas are on the table, but only France has launched a diplomatic campaign to try to secure international backing and Paris's motives are deeply distrusted by Rwanda, which supports the Tutsi rebellion. Meles said he also opposed a 20-day period proposed by

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to send troops to the region.

He reiterated Ethiopia's commitment to send troops to the proposed force "provided that principles outlined in the statement by the Nairobi summit are adhered to and provided that all the ground rules for the deployment of the neutral force are worked out by the

Security Council."

Among the OAU's 54 states only Ethiopia and Mali have so far pledged to send troops. Underlining the reluctance of countries to become involved, only nine foreign ministers of the 17 member states of the OAU's conflict committee attended the one-day session in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa.

East African peace mediator Julius Nyerere asked South African President Nelson Mandela Saturday to contribute to a Zaire peace force but Mr. Mandela said he needed more information. But Mr. Mandela said he needed specific details and said he was still "in the dark" about the situation on the ground.

Media links Japan lawmakers to arrested oil trader

TOKYO (R) — An obscure Japanese tax evasion case has taken on political overtones with a growing number of news reports saying that a Japanese oil dealer now in custody made donations to some of the nation's key politicians.

The revelations could be an embarrassment for Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's new minority government formed only last week.

Quoting unidentified sources, Kyodo news agency said Monday that a "powerful" incumbent lower house legislator had received several million Yen (tens of thousands of U.S. dollars) from millionaire oil wholesaler Junichi Izumi.

The politician, whose name was withheld, did not report the donation in his tax return as required, Kyodo said.

Japanese newspapers have also reported that Mr. Izumi had ties to political figures, making donations and purchasing tickets to fund-raising events.

Mr. Izumi, owner and sole employee of oil wholesaler Izumi Oil Co., was arrested last Thursday on charges he evaded 310 million Yen (\$2.80 million) in taxes.

Mr. Izumi handed over to the authorities a notebook in which he had recorded banquet dates and the names of 16 politicians, Kyodo said. Also written in the notebook were the names of "many" bureaucrats from ministries including the powerful Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), it said.

Investigators and government officials declined to comment on the report and calls to Mr. Izumi's office in Osaka went unanswered.

The scandal involves a series of complicated deals involving Mr. Izumi and oil giant Mitsubishi Oil Co. Ltd. and Mitsui Mining Co. Ltd.

In a separate report at the weekend, Kyodo quoted company sources as saying that when Mr. Izumi proposed a deal with Mitsui Mining last year, he

mentioned the names of several officials at MITI and the natural resources and energy agency.

Kyodo says the Osaka oil dealer wine and dined MITI officials and made legal political donations to at least five lawmakers, including Taku Yamazaki, the policy chief of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

In a news conference Thursday after the first meeting of Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's new cabinet, new Finance Minister Hiroshi Mitsuoka said he met Mr. Izumi two or three times at fund-raising parties.

"I believe I have not done anything illegal," he said.

LDP Secretary-General Koichi Kato also said he met Mr. Izumi at a private function a few years ago. Mr. Izumi bought 200,000 Yen (\$1,800) worth of fund-raising party tickets, Kyodo said. But Kato denied having any specific relationship with him, Kyodo said.

Japan has been rocked by a series of scandals and controversies involving overly close or improper links between government officials and businessmen.

In one such case last year, then Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura docked his own pay over a scandal involving a senior ministry official taking improper gifts from business contacts.

One of the biggest political scandals of recent years was the 1980s recruit stocks-for-favours affair that was seen as a symbol of the excesses of the nation's "bubble economy" era of inflated land and share prices. Many of Japan's senior politicians, bureaucrats and business executives were believed to have received shares of Tokyo-based job information company recruit cosmos before the stock was listed and its price jumped.

The scandal caused a bitter political furor that led to the downfall of Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita in June 1989.

Khmer Rouge hardliners deny death of hostage-taker

PHNOM PENH (R) — Khmer Rouge hardliners said Monday a guerrilla commander believed to have ordered the killing of three western backpackers in southern Cambodia two years ago was alive and had not been murdered by his own men.

Khmer Rouge radio, in a broadcast monitored in Phnom Penh Monday, denied reports that Nuon Paet had been killed by his troops last month in the coastal province of Kampot.

"General Paet is still alive and a brave hero who has done everything well for the democratic Kampuchea (Khmer Rouge) in Kampot province," said the radio, which is controlled by hardliners loyal to

Pol Pot.

It said Nuon Paet, who is believed to have ordered the killing of hostages Mark Slater of Britain, David Wilson of Australia and Jean-Michel Braquet of France, was still in Kampot and regularly reported to the guerrillas' general staff in the northern base of Anlong Veng.

His men of the Kampot-based division 405 captured the three tourists from a train in July 1994. Many of his fighters defected to the government but Nuon Paet escaped a government dragnet shortly before the bodies of the three were found in November that year. Former colleagues of Nuon Paet reportedly said at a

weekend ceremony marking the defection of guerrillas to the government that the general had been killed in a shoot-out with his bodyguards.

The British, French and Australian governments have insisted that he be punished and have reiterated this demand in light of a major split in the Khmer Rouge since August which has seen thousands of guerrillas join the government. Keo Pong, a Khmer Rouge defector who has led negotiations with many of the guerrillas, last week told Reuters that Nuon Paet was seriously ill but had sent 300 fighters and their families to join the government. His own plans were unknown.

Keating bemoans Australia's race debate

SYDNEY (R) — Former Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating said Monday the race debate which has engulfed the nation was dangerously divisive and an issue best solved by the country becoming a republic.

"I think the pity is that at this mature stage of our national life we are still arguing about the most basic issues of our identity," Mr. Keating said in a speech to the University of New South Wales.

"That is one of the many reasons why I am utterly convinced that we should be a republic," said Mr. Keating, who as prime minister wanted Australia to become a republic by 2001.

Mr. Keating said the race debate, sparked by independent politician Pauline Hanson in September when she said Australia was being swamped by Asians, was "dangerously divisive".

He said the race debate reflected concerns in Australia about the end of full-employment and insecurity about the future.

Australia could resolve its national identity if its government and national symbols better reflected its indepen-

dent, multi-cultural society, Mr. Keating said. Britain's Queen Elizabeth, who is head-of-state of Australia and 15 other United Nations countries, could no longer represent such a culturally diverse country as Australia, he said.

"This is much more than shallow symbolism," Mr. Keating said.

"Those who still argue that our continuing links with the British monarchy do not handicap our international efforts... simply do not understand the stakes we are playing for," he said.

"An Australian head-of-state can embody and represent our values and traditions, our experience and contemporary aspirations, our cultural diversity and social complexity in a way that a British monarch... can no longer adequately hope to do," he said.

Mr. Keating said Ms. Hanson's attacks on Asians and aborigines were "one of the saddest developments" in recent Australian history. Asians make up about 4.7 per cent of Australia's 18 million population and one third of the 100,000 immigrants each year.

Papua New Guinea police arrest more than 120 during curfew

PORT MORESBY (AFP) — More than 120 people have been arrested in the capital of Papua New Guinea on the first weekend of a night curfew that police hope will help them round up armed gangs and stop a rise in murders.

"We've run three raids in Port Moresby so far and a number of murder and robbery suspects have been arrested," a police spokesman said. Four murders were recorded nationwide at the weekend.

Although murder rates were the lowest for three years (443 this year compared to more than 600 in both 1995 and 1996), the government imposed the curfew last week in response to a sudden increase in murders including the revenge killing of four teenage boys.

Crime in the urban centres of Papua New Guinea has been blamed on high unemployment, urban drift, poverty and the breakdown of traditional village life.

Residents already protected by razor wire and guard dogs in the major towns of Port Moresby, Lae and Mount Hagen have expressed mixed reactions to the 9 p.m. to 5

a.m. curfew.

Some say it has had little effect on their lifestyle as many people are too afraid to drive around at night anyway.

"I am always very careful already about where I go and what I carry with me," said one long term resident who requested anonymity.

"The curfew won't really change that, it just means I'll be sleeping better at night."

Police say more than 6,000 people have applied for passes to allow them to move around at night. Restaurants and nightclubs are now opening for business in the afternoons in an effort to keep pre-Christmas business brisk.

Port Moresby chamber of commerce President Minson Peni told AFP the initial impact has hit some hotel night shift employees who have been temporarily suspended.

Peni said the businesses supported proposals to repatriate the urban unemployed to their home villages, for police to have greater power to control people's movement with the use of ID cards.

"Since independence in 1975 we have not really thought about how to absorb

the people leaving school or how to make better use of our land," he said.

Port Moresby police Commander Philip Taku said police will target tribal groups who have settled in more than 80 illegal squatter settlements in the capital, which has a population of 400,000.

But funding for the operation, two million kina (\$1.5 million) will barely cover overtime payments, police sources say, adding that businesses have offered their support and were delivering boxes of biscuits and tinned meat for curfew staff.

Some observers are pessimistic. "The curfew is a waste of money," said individual and community rights advocate forum director Powes Parkop. "It won't stop crime or put an end to violence. I think for the government, perhaps a curfew is the only thing they can do to show they can respond to the public's concern."

Reflecting that concern, a mass rally and march to parliament house is planned for Wednesday to protest against the spread of inter-ethnic violence in the capital.

Despite Mr. Onate's claim of improved performance over last year, those figures would still suggest a sharply lower haul of votes for the PRI than has traditionally been the case. The PRI has ruled Mexico's federal government without a break for 67 years and until recently opposition parties barely had any representation at all in town halls, state governorships or congress.

Of the five main municipalities in the state, Mr. Onate said the PRI had won in the capital Toluca and in the municipality of Ecatepec, while he said Naucalpan, Nezahualcoyotl and Tlalnepantla were too close to call.

However, preliminary official figures with 5.1 per cent of the vote counted showed the PAN with 53.2 per cent of the vote in the state's third-biggest municipality of Naucalpan, compared to just 27.3 per cent for the PRI.

In the huge Mexico City suburb of Nezahualcoyotl, the

TOLUCA, Mexico (R) — Mexico's long-ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) said early Monday that partial election results in three states showed it had made a clear comeback after its worst-ever defeats in 1995.

PRI party President Santiago Onate claimed victory in elections to the state legislatures of Coahuila and the central state of Mexico.

Citing his own party's figures, he said in a television interview that municipal races in Coahuila, Mexico and Hidalgo states were also going mostly in the ruling party's favour.

Early official figures from Sunday's voting showed though that the PRI faced some once-unthinkable municipal losses, mostly to the Conservative National Action Party (PAN), and that some tight races remained to be decided.

"The fundamentally interesting thing here is that the PRI is ending this year with numbers that show a clear improvement compared to what we got in 1995, there is a recovery in the overall figures," Mr. Onate said.

Opposition leaders begged to differ, though, remaining hopeful of snatching some important prizes from the PRI's once iron grip, including several major municipalities in the state of Mexico, the heartland of the old Aztec Empire, which struggles around Mexico city to the

north, east and west. Home to 11.7 million people, the state is the country's most populous and home to much of its industry.

Preliminary official figures from the state of Mexico, with about 10 per cent of the municipal votes counted, showed the PRI with about 37 per cent of valid votes compared to about 33 per cent for the PAN and 17 per cent for the leftist party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD).

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In the huge Mexico City suburb of Nezahualcoyotl, the

PRI was a sliver ahead of the PRD with just 3 per cent of the vote counted, the official figures showed.

"If we can win Nezahualcoyotl, we have a basis for thinking we can win Mexico City next year," PRD President Andres Munoz Ledo told reporters, adding that his party's overall vote had picked up in mostly rural areas.

All three parties were treating the elections as a dry run for key midterm congressional votes next July — a date which will also see the first-ever election of a mayor of Mexico City. Hitherto the post was held by presidential appointees.

Sunday's elections had been expected to give a clearer picture of to what extent President Ernesto Zedillo's PRI can maintain its long grip on power.

In 1995, as the country fell into deep economic recession following the December 1994 peso crash, the PRI lost several state governorships and major town halls to the PAN in its worst year ever at the polling booth.

In Coahuila, the PAN looked close to winning the state capital Saltillo and the cities of Monclova and Torreon, according to partial official results.

All three main parties reported no major incident, although the PAN and PRD alleged ruling party members had offered money for votes in parts of the state of Mexico.

Sri Lanka navy sinks Tiger flotilla

COLOMBO (AFP) — Navy gun boats attacked a flotilla of rebel boats off Sri Lanka's northern coast Monday, destroying four craft and killing an unspecified number of rebels, the defence ministry said.

The navy detected the boats of the Liberation Tigers Of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) outside the military port of Kankesanthurai and it is believed that the rebels were trying to attack the facility, the ministry said.

"One of the Tiger boats exploded after being hit by navy gun fire," the ministry spokesman said. "We believe it was carrying suicide cadres who were trying to break into the port."

Two navy fast attack craft were damaged during the pre-dawn confrontation while four sailors were injured in the mid-sea fire fight, the spokesman said.

The action came as security forces remained on red alert for a possible escalation of Tiger attacks to

mark the 42nd birthday of the rebel supremo this month, officials said.

Troops and police, particularly in the island's northern and eastern regions have been asked to be on maximum vigilance to prevent spectacular raids by the LTTE, officials said.

"Tigers have staged heavy attacks during the month of November because they celebrate a 'hero's week' to coincide with (Velupillai) Prabhakaran's birthday on the 26th," a military official said.

He said more than 70 troopers were killed in the island's east during last November and security forces were taking precautions against major attacks from the Tigers this year.

Tigers are leading a protracted campaign for independence in the island's northern and eastern regions where the two million Tamil minority is concentrated.

Zambian students riot over electoral impasse

LUSAKA (R) — Zambian police used teargas and batons to disperse scores of rioting students at the country's largest university Monday, witnesses said.

A student leader was arrested and several others were slightly injured as police moved in to block a planned march to the presidential residence by students dissatisfied with plans for general elections scheduled for Nov. 13.

The students had intended to call on President Frederick Chiluba to reopen dialogue with the opposition, and possibly suspend the polls until all political parties reached consensus on the rules to govern the elections.

The riot was the second in three days on the University of Zambia campus. On Saturday, 17 British Airways crew members were injured, some seriously, when rioting students attacked their bus with stones.

Four of the injured had to be flown to South Africa for specialist treatment. Police said the cause for the disturbance, in which students indiscriminately attacked vehicles on a road parallel to the campus, had not yet been established.

Student leaders said the riot was sparked by a hit-and-run road accident in which a student suffered a broken leg, dispelling speculation the violence was politically motivated.

Seven opposition parties, including former President Kenneth Kaunda's United National Independence Party (UNIP), are boycotting the polls which they claim have been arranged to ensure that the ruling Movement for Multi-Party Democracy (MMD) remains in power.

The parties are opposed to a new constitution that bans some candidates, including Kaunda, from contesting the presidential race. They are also unhappy with the voters' register, which reportedly omits 2.3 million of the 4.6 million eligible voters.

Jordan Times

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The Ciller factor

THE CURRENT visit of Tansu Ciller, the Turkish deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, has to be seen as an important link in the chain of good relations that has tied Jordan to Turkey for many decades. Mrs. Ciller comes to Amman therefore as a friend who represents a nation with which Jordan has traditionally enjoyed the warmest of ties. No wonder His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan have paid Ankara many visits over the years and these were reciprocated by Turkish leaders.

But this particular trip acquires an added meaning and significance because it is happening at a time when the Middle East, which we share, is undergoing profound and rapid change — politically, economically and otherwise.

It is no secret that Jordan views Turkey as a major regional power and partner which has to be consulted and worked with in shaping mutual security, stability and cooperation. As a neighbour, gateway to Europe and potential major supplier of water to the region, Ankara holds cards that are key to broadening and strengthening the peace between Israel and the Arab World. Since Turkey enjoys good relations with both the Israelis and the Arabs, we expect her to play a stabilising role when one party strays from the direction of peace and threatens to undo all of its promise and achievements. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu should hear from Dr. Ciller and her government that Turkey will be negatively affected by regression in the peace process, that everybody actually stands to lose from a party not honouring its commitments to the cause of peace.

It is perhaps significant that the Turkish leader's visit to Jordan is also taking place on the eve of the convening in Cairo of the third Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit. The high-powered business delegation which is accompanying Dr. Ciller must be viewing economic opportunities not only in the Kingdom but in the rest of the Arab World as well. In this context, we must remember that both Jordan and Turkey suffered the most from the Gulf crisis and the continued application of economic sanctions against Iraq. No doubt, the case of Iraq will figure high on the Amman talks' agenda. This is then an important opportunity for Amman and Ankara to review joint moves aimed at lifting the sanctions and bringing closer the day when Iraq is fully rehabilitated into the international community and the suffering of its people is ended once and for all.

There is enough common ground between Turkey and Jordan not only to hold similar views and outlook on regional and international issues but also to forge a new partnership for peace, moderation and democracy. Turkey can use its full-fledged membership in North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and association with Europe to work productively with a fellow Muslim country which is in the throes of reaching a partnership agreement with the European Union (EU) and an ally status with NATO.

Of the common historical, religious and cultural stage that our countries share, we can build a new political and economic edifice — a structure that could and should serve the whole of the Arab World. This, in essence, is what we hope Dr. Ciller's visit will achieve ultimately.

PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE CAIRO economic summit opening today offers a renewed chance to the United States to prove its stand and its pledges of breaking the deadlock in the Middle East peace process, according to Al Rai Arabic daily paper. It said the U.S. secretary of state, who is due to attend the opening of the Cairo meeting, is scheduled to meet the Palestinian president, Egyptian leaders and Israeli government officials on the sidelines of the economic meeting and is expected to discuss the stalled peace process. The meeting will be the first since the reelection of President Clinton and the move to the White House and comes in the wake of the Israeli-Palestinian accord, noted the paper. It said that the Cairo meeting, which comes at the end of month-long fruitless talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians under the U.S. sponsorship, is overshadowed by continued Israeli arbitrary measures against the Palestinians in Hebron, the Israeli government's refusal to implement the Oslo accord concerning the city and amidst persistent Israeli plans to build more Jewish settlements on Arab lands.

A WRITER for Al Dostour suggested that the government freeze all appointments in its offices and direct its attention to creating income-generating projects in towns and areas outside Amman. Mohammad Daoud said that the new plans will naturally absorb many of the unemployed and that the government should also turn its attention to creating jobs in the private sector. The bloated public sector is weakening government departments' performance and delaying the handling of any government-related procedures, with adverse results for the economy, he said. The government should also turn its attention to evicting non-Jordanian workers and opening the way for unemployed Jordanian citizens to take their place in all jobs and trades, he added.

The View from Fourth Circle

Voting with our stomachs — McDonald's, markets, culture and sovereignty

By Rami G. Khouri

OF THE two main events in Amman last week that generated news coverage and discussions among people — the opening of McDonald's restaurant and the visit of Israeli President Ezer Weizman — my guess is that the Weizman visit is slightly more significant politically and in the short-term, but in the longer term the McDonald's opening is far more important, and in many more dimensions. I make this comparison not to offend the Israeli president — clearly a distinguished and refined man with a sincere and deep-felt yearning for peace and justice — but rather to try to make sense of the several dazzling aspects of the McDonald's opening that we witnessed.

The juxtaposed facts are as follows: the Weizman visit elicited an official royal meeting that was publicised on television, some other routine media coverage and some very perfunctory and brief comments by Jordanians to one another; the McDonald's opening elicited a royal audience, repeated full-page advertisements in the local press, many congratulatory notices from other Jordanians in the press, a donation by McDonald's to Jordanian charities, traffic jams that lasted for hours at the location of the main restaurant, some discussion on local electronic bulletin boards about the meaning of the event, and brief but recurring questions from some Jordanians to others about whether they had visited the new McDonald's.

President Weizman's visit fundamentally had a single dimension, albeit an important one — diplomatic footsies, i.e., a sincere desire to send important signals of a deeper will for affection and coexistence, but without the force of official policy. The McDonald's opening had several dimensions, above and beyond the important culinary one: economic, political, cultural and, to an extent, existential.

To judge by the energy, interest and publicity generated by the McDonald's opening, this is, for Jordan, an event with historic significance, whether we like it or not. For our country, it marks two things: a) the changing nature of national sovereignty from a country-based to a corporate-based process, and b) the effective end of the 20th century and the start of the 21st century. It represents the official beginning of the new era of nationhood and development in which economic forces and values may prove to be more important than political and cultural ones. I say "may" prove to be more important because the jury is still out on this issue. It remains to be seen if and how the McDonald's phenomenon impacts culturally on Jordan and the Arab World as strongly as it has on the United States.

We have to keep analysing the facts before us, though, and those facts indicate several important things to me. (I should admit, so as not to be accused of hidden prejudices, that I personally enjoy fast foods, but I am not a serious McDonald's fan, though I have been known to enjoy a Big Mac now and then. I far prefer Burger King restaurants, in particular their Double Whoppers with Cheese with a double side order of onion rings — a culinary phenomenon and human invention that blends aroma, texture,

Epicurean indulgence, nutrition and multi-sensual satisfaction to a degree that is not only astounding for the extent of its immediate gastronomic passion and enjoyment, but is all the more brilliant for the fact that you can experience this bliss repeatedly, at an instant's will, throughout the world, and at reasonable cost. But never mind my personal preferences; this is not about what I like, but about who and what we are as an evolving society.)

The fact is, the McDonald's opening generated much more popular interest than, say, the Amman MENA economic summit last year or this week's MENA economic summit in Cairo. What does this mean? I think it primarily means that we are experiencing the slow shift in the nature of national power and sovereignty — a shift from the tendency of centralised political and economic power to shape people's lives and thoughts on the basis of nationalistic and ideological criteria, to a post-modern trend of people's lives being determined more by their own economic choices from among the offerings of consumer-oriented corporations whose key values — personal pleasure and the profit motive — are slowly replacing both ideology and nationalism in some Western lands, especially the United States.

"One could also argue that our society will soon be tested on the basis of the single most important criterion of historical change that has already defined the United States: the transition from a cohesive nation defined by its common history and values to a diffuse marketplace defined by diverse choices, impulses and gratifications."

One could also argue that our society will soon be tested on the basis of the single most important criterion of historical change that has already defined the United States: the transition from a cohesive nation defined by its common history and values to a diffuse marketplace defined by diverse choices, impulses and gratifications. America represents the triumph of lifestyle over culture, and of the concept of corporation over that of country. This is not necessarily a bad thing, for it brings us pleasurable phenomena such as, well, such as onion rings. The unanswered question for Jordan and the rest of the Third World is whether or not we will end up defining ourselves in terms of how many different kinds of hamburgers and onion rings we produce, rather than in terms of our identity, values, dreams, myths and memories. Or, how we will integrate the corporate dictates of the McDonald's world within the deep cultural values and historical legacies of our own societies.

I would argue that the two can mesh easily and to their mutual benefit, if we maintain a priority of values that place a relatively higher premium on personal dignity and social cohesion, and a relatively lower premium on sheer fiscal profits that are derived from the marketing of unbridled personal, material gratification and that are also devoid of social conscience and communal responsibility.

It was fascinating to watch the McDonald's corporation being treated in Jordan this week with nearly the same flourish and niceties that we extend to the representatives of other sovereign states — and, McDonald's in return has acted out its own quasi-sovereign role by providing us some foreign aid. This is a comment on both Jordan and on McDonald's, and on the emerging relationship between such entities that will define the world of the 21st century. Like it or not, McDonald's represents a new form of sovereignty — not a nation, not a culture, but a formidable economic power, perhaps even a pseudo-state. Media coverage, donations to charities, royal audiences, major league traffic jams and other happenings confirm that we attach very high importance to the opening of this fast food outlet. It remains for us to understand better the precise nature of that importance. It is more than merely culinary, for sure; if that had been the case, we would have had a full national holiday when Subway and Colonel Sanders' Kentucky Fried Chicken opened, for their fare is far more enjoyable in culinary terms than McDonald's, in my opinion.

The nature of the importance of this restaurant's opening is existential and national, to a still imprecise extent — for our well-being as a sovereign state in the immediate future will depend heavily on our ability to attract foreign direct investment in a manner that connects us more intimately (economically and culturally) with the global economy. For Jordan to seek, welcome and promote this sort of investment is to indicate the future direction of our place in the world, and also of our understanding of that world. McDonald's opening in Jordan represents not just a vote of economic confidence by foreign investors, but partly also a new form of diplomatic support and even national validation. We are more significant and utilitarian, even important, to the dominant Western powers this week, particularly to the United States, because we are becoming eager markets for their consumer products and culture of instant material gratification.

In a world where both people and states are given the opportunity to vote with their gastrointestinal enzymes, we have voted to find safety under the Golden Arches, and well-being in the global economy. It is an important, inevitable, but debatable and risky choice. As I said, the jury's still out on whether this is an intelligent or an irresponsible strategy. It may be visionary and constructive, or it may be desperate and doomed. Until we find out his verdict, enjoy the ride and pass the ketchup.

'Desertion of U.S. election by half the voters is negation of popular democracy'

By G.H. Jansen

IS THE United States of America a popular democracy? The answer would seem to be, obviously, yes. But is that correct? Formally so — yes.

But essentially, the most that can be said on the popularity of democracy in the U.S. is, "yes, marginally so." And this because of the very low rate of popular participation in elections, like the one that has just been held for the president and the upper and lower houses of Congress as well as state and local office holders.

The basic background figures against which we must evaluate the rate of participation are these: the total population of the U.S. is about 240 million people while the electorate — that is the number of people permitted to go to polls because of voting age — is about 180 million. In this last election the actual electorate — people who went to the polling stations and cast their ballots — was 49 per cent of the electorate, or 90 million. That is half of those eligible. Of the 90 million, President Bill Clinton got 49 per cent, just under the 52 per cent he wanted. This means the incumbent president is in power because he was preferred and chosen by half of the participating half of the electorate, or one-quarter of the eligible electors. Does that amount to a really popular mandate? Marginally yes, but no more than marginally.

Voter participation in U.S. elections — presidential or congressional — has always been meagre. The best figure for voter participation in recent presidential races was 62.8 per cent in 1960 when John Kennedy ran against Richard Nixon. The worst turnout for the presidential race was this year. The average figure for presidential elections has been

in the 50-60 percentage range. The worst figure for voter participation in a congressional election was 33.1 per cent in 1990 and the best was 58.5 in 1960, the year of Kennedy's election.

All these figures definitely do not amount to "popular participation" in the election process, which is why one is compelled to ask why the U.S. voter is so indifferent about using his vote in a free and fair election which is what people have fought and died for in countries all around the world.

There are several reasons. The first and most obvious is "sheer apathy", but that merely pushes the question back a step.

"The desertion of the electoral system by half the voters is a negation of popular democracy because it allows the special interest groups — like the gun lobby, the tobacco lobby and the pro-Israel Zionist lobby — to marshal their supporters and manipulate the politicians elected to the presidency and Congress. And this manipulation very often runs counter to the wishes and interests of the American people as a whole."

Why are Americans apathetic about casting their votes? The answer is that they are ignorant of politics and, being ignorant, they do not know the significance and value of a vote in a free and fair election. It is the low level of education that is responsible for such ignorance, even among students who have passed through all the grades in the public school system. Of course, teaching in private schools is very much superior to that in public schools — so much so that the American "democracy" is well as boredom leading to apathy.

Apathy and boredom can also be the result of the fact that the presidency, the White House, and the Congress are both sited in Washington, D.C., and the capital is too remote, too far away from millions of voters — as is the case with New Delhi in India. Thus, out of sight is out of mind. For the average U.S. voter even the state capital is remote: who really cares about happenings in Lincoln, the capital of Nebraska, or in Des Moines, the capital of Iowa?

This despite the fact that "civics" is a compulsory subject in the U.S. school system.

Indeed, it is almost true to say that U.S. citizens do not so much participate in elections as boycott them and that the two real parties consist of those who bother to vote and those who do not vote.

The indifference and apathy that the people feel towards what goes on in what is grandiloquently called "the nation's capital", the governance of the country, is amply displayed in the pot-holed roads of the District of Columbia and its bad record on crime and drugs. The only defence of conditions in Washington is: "you have to remember that Washington is a southern city," underdeveloped and backward.

One other reason for the poor turnout in U.S. elections is that for many people, especially outsiders, the choice in American elections seems to be between Tweedledum and Tweedledee because neither Democrats nor Republicans have ideological programmes and are even proud that this is so. So much so that one experienced political commentator last week claimed that Clinton won this year because he was a Democrat in the Republican camp and thus took votes from both sides.

The desertion of the electoral system by half the voters is a negation of popular democracy because it allows the special interest groups — like the gun lobby, the tobacco lobby and the pro-Israel Zionist lobby — to marshal their supporters and manipulate the politicians elected to the presidency and Congress. And this manipulation very often runs counter to the wishes and interests of the American people as a whole.

LETTERS

Victory for the handicapped

To the Editor:

WE WOULD like to share this summer's experience with everybody. We are lucky to have friends who, although bound to move about in wheelchairs, still had the courage to come to Jordan.

When we knew that our old friends from Germany were really going to visit (after having dreamed about this for 16 years), we started to see our home and daily routine in quite a different light. Questions were popping up in our minds endlessly: How would 180-kg Joerg (muscular atrophy since the age of 14) in his electric wheelchair be able to get up those three stairs? And into the bathroom? How could they get a glimpse of all the beautiful sights in Jordan? Would they miss all the real treasures and be content sitting in the garden (where at least we had made sure they could move freely through levelling the stupid steps by way of ramps)?

Well, the unthinkable happened: they saw it all and enjoyed every minute of it. Thanks to HRH Princess Majda and Karen Asfour, both actively involved in Al Hussein Society for the Physically Handicapped, as well as the Petra Trust Fund and the Department of Archaeology in Petra, we got all the help needed and special licences for Ingrid (pushing chair) to go all the way to Qasr Al Binn by horse-cart, and for Joerg to get there by car, on the back road.

Nobody thought his wheelchair would manage the sandy paths through the Siq and inside Petra. But when there is a will, there is a way. To our delight he tried, marvelling at all the natural beauties; he even saw the Khazneh and the Siq — the other way round, but all the way. Everybody was eager to lend a helping hand to make it happen. So our exhausted but happy friend was pushed up the last few metres of the Siq.

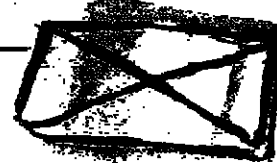
This is one of the many small but important victories over a physical handicap, a serious obstacle that would prevent most people from leading a normal life, let alone endeavouring a sight-seeing vacation in Jordan. There were many other moments of joy: barah, there is a ramp leading to (but alas not into the South gate in Jerash; yes, there are traffic signs for wheelchair passengers at the airport and the 6th Circle (but have you ever tried to leave the pavement and cross the road in a wheelchair downtown, near the Al Hussein Mosque?)).

Some hotels (like Moevenpick and Taybet Zaman) have rooms/facilities for people in wheelchairs, but what about tourist attractions like Madaba, Kan Zaman, the Dead Sea? I have never noticed so many (mostly unnecessary) stairs in my life!

For most healthy Jordanians whom we met during these two eye-opening weeks, the mere sight of a person in a wheelchair at these tourist places was unusual; but to see a wheelchair occupant laughing in public and obviously enjoying him/herself — that was something new.

I sincerely hope that by learning that these two people — in spite of their handicaps since early childhood — got married, live at home, have three healthy children and five grandchildren, work and lead (almost) normal lives, some of the prejudices towards physically handicapped people will get shaky, and more and more people will try to help win victories with and for human beings in wheelchairs — step by step.

Martha Sara Amman



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Slowly awakened to the threat posed by radon

By Jacob L. Dallal

IT IS late afternoon and the sun is setting on the row of spruce townhouses in a new neighbourhood of Ma'aleh Adumim. On the next hill, another neighbourhood is under construction. Gerald Schroeder knocks at the door of one of the homes; in his briefcase are small plastic canisters containing a black powder. "What's he here for?" a girl about six asks her mother.

"It's none of your business," Rina tells her daughter. To Schroeder she adds: "I don't want them to spread the news that we're having our house tested. People will panic for no reason."

Schroeder will be testing the house for radon. It is the odourless radioactive gas which results from the decay of radium and which occurs naturally in the ground, and can penetrate building foundations and accumulate in rooms on, below or one story above ground level which are poorly ventilated.

After a tour of the comfortable two-story home, Schroeder decides he will place the radon-detection canisters in the study and the bathroom on the ground floor. A week later, he will collect the canisters and send them to a laboratory for analysis.

"There might be a low level of radon in the study, but it's well ventilated so it won't show up," he says after the visit.

This is one of hundreds of radon checks Schroeder has conducted since setting up his company about a year ago.

Testing for radon is a booming business. More and more local authorities, companies and individuals are testing for above-normal levels of the gas, thanks to increasing public awareness about radon. In the last year alone, the number of private companies authorised to test radon in Israel has nearly tripled to 16.

"The number of tests we do has been rising constantly," says Dan Ofri of Evis, which has been doing radon tests for four years. "There has been a great rise in public awareness about radon. But still it's not enough."

The danger of exposure to radon at home or work, over time, is real.

"If you could see it, you'd run out of your house," Schroeder says, who was involved in radon testing in the U.S. for 20 years. "We are talking about hundreds of thousands of radioactive particles being emitted in the room per minute."

Exposure to radon in large doses over extended periods can cause lung cancer. In the U.S., radon is blamed for 8 per cent of lung-cancer cases, making it the most frequent cause of lung cancer after smoking.

The remedies, if radon is detected, are usually simple. In most cases, the solution is just better ventilation.

But Rina doesn't relish the thought of finding radon in her home. "I'd been moving for 15 years until I built this house," she says. "But I guess if I have to, I'll

move again."

Most Israelis, like Rina, came to know about radon from a case at the East Talpote State Elementary School in Jerusalem, and the story of Hanna Farber.

In October 1993, Farber, who taught arts-and-crafts classes in the basement shelter of the school, was found to have a cancerous growth in her breast. It was removed, and she returned to her classes. Then, last year, another check-up showed that cancer had spread throughout Farber's body, to her blood, bone marrow and liver. Farber died in August at 39.

In what experts say was an unrelated coincidence, and what her husband asserts was the cause of her death, the room in which Farber taught for 17 years was found to have extremely high levels of radon. Tests done at the school last year showed it to be inundated with the gas. The shelter in the basement where Farber taught registered radon concentrations as high as 50 times the permissible level, and in two pipes behind her desk it was measured at nearly 700 times the allowable amount.

After consulting Israel's top radiation experts and a year of extensive renovations, tests conducted at the school just before the term started show the radon level was down to normal.

Medical professionals insist Farber's illness was not due to radon; they say that radon causes lung cancer only, which Farber did not have.

But Farber's case made everyone take radon more seriously. The Environment Ministry subsequently ordered all local authorities to test for radon in schoolrooms on ground level and below ground, as well as in public buildings. It advises, anyone living on the ground floor to have his home checked for radon.

The first radon tests in Israel were done in 1990 at

"Exposure to radon in large doses over extended periods can cause lung cancer. In the U.S., radon is blamed for 8 per cent of lung-cancer cases, making it the most frequent cause of lung cancer after smoking."

a smattering of locations nationwide, and some measured radon at more than the accepted level of 200 becquerels (a measurement of radioactive particles emitted per second in a cubic metre).

In the U.S., radon testing began in the early 1980s, and by then the Environmental Protection Agency guidelines were in place. Today in many states in the U.S., a radon measurement above the regulation level can be grounds for cancelling a mortgage.

The first map of radon

concentrations here was published by the Israel Geological Survey and the Sorek Nuclear Research Centre, at Nahal Sorek, in 1993. It shows high incidence of the gas in an area stretching from eastern Jerusalem to the Dead Sea including Ma'aleh Adumim, plus Arad, parts of Modi'in and points in the Galilee, like Nazareth and Karmiel.

Results from radon tests in homes and institutions around the country show more instances of radon in these radon-prone areas than elsewhere; according to the map's author, Moshe Shirav, a researcher at the geological survey, "There is a clear correlation between the map and radon in homes," he says.

This is a cause for concern among many new and potential homeowners in areas now being built, like Modi'in, where parts of the city are in areas with higher radon potential. Shirav says several contractors have contacted him to find out whether they are building in a radon-prone area of the city.

But the map is no quick fix. There have been ample cases of radon in areas considered safe on the map; and by no means does living in an area with a higher radon potential indicate that people will find radon in their homes.

Schroeder, who does the tests, says it all depends on the contractor. He points out that radon occurs naturally almost everywhere and, therefore, it is the quality of construction that counts. "The whole thing has to do with the way the foundation is built," he says.

So in an area like Ma'aleh Adumim or Modi'in, if the construction is good, radon may not be found in buildings. Esther Schellekens, head of the environment department in Ma'aleh Adumim, says there were a few cases of radon being detected in the municipality's check of schools — in rooms where there was no ventilation, concentrations reached 300 becquerels — even though the city is in a high-risk area. She suggests that this is because most of the buildings are relatively new and of a high standard.

In contrast, according to one expert, in Efrat, which according to the map is not radon-prone, as many as one in every three homes may have radon because of poor construction.

As a result, everyone dealing with radon agrees on the need for a radon-safe building code. This would require a foundation of a certain thickness with, for example, polyethylene insulation.

The Environment Ministry, which is responsible for issuing such guidelines, says it will do so only after it conducts comprehensive radon survey of the country. The survey, which is due to be included in the ministry's budget this year, will take a year to conduct, so a radon-safe national building code will not be in effect for at least three years.

Ehud Ne'eman, head of the ministry's radiation department, says that mean-

while, local authorities can introduce radon-safe guidelines into local building codes.

But passing the burden of dealing with radon onto local authorities is, according to some, irresponsible.

One mayor in a high-risk area was asked to have a comprehensive radon survey done in his city. "He declined because he said it would depreciate the value of real estate," Shirav recalls.

But more often, the environmental protection department in a city does not have money, as was the case in Jerusalem. In 1994, after the publication of the radon map, Gil Reichmann, head of the municipality's environment department, suggested that radon tests be done in schools in eastern neighbourhoods, where the map showed the potential for radon was high. But there were no city funds for the testing, and after government ministries refused to pay for it, the matter was dropped.

If parents want a school tested, they have to take the initiative and find the money themselves, Reichmann says.

One person who insisted that a radon test be done and paid for it was Alex Farber, whose wife by then had cancer throughout her body.

"I wanted to find out why she was so ill," says Farber, who says his wife's family did not have a history of cancer. Farber had read about radon and knew his wife taught in an unventilated basement shelter.

As early as 1993, Farber says he asked school principal Yossi Oren whether radon tests had been done at the school. Farber says Oren assured him tests were conducted. But by last year when Farber asked for details about the results, it became clear that no testing had been done. So Farber hired a company to test the school.

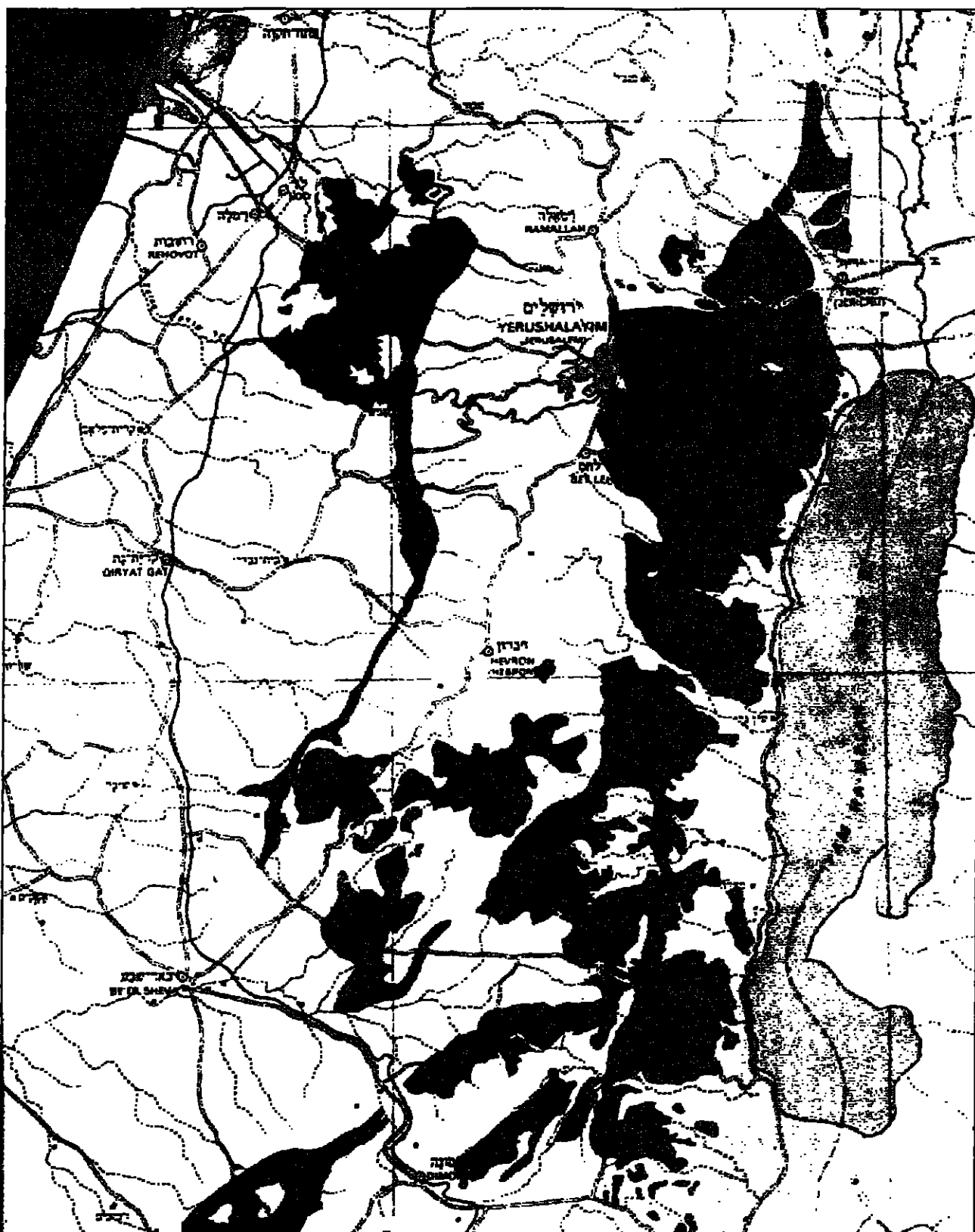
The results were alarming. Many classrooms had radon levels five times above the permissible level, and in the basement shelter where Farber taught, the levels were higher still. The principal, who received the results, did not want to inform parents immediately. They found out about the radon through the media.

Responding to parents' demands, the municipality called in experts and radon measurements were taken again. Two construction experts from the Technion were called in. They worked to make hollows under the building and in the walls through which radon could escape outside.

The latest tests, released before the start of the school year, show the building to be safe, with levels well below the allowable maximum of 200 becquerels.

"We hope the school will remain clean, but we will remain vigilant," says Irit Levy, head of the parents' association. Another radon test in the school is scheduled for the end of the year.

Jerusalem City Hall is now conducting long-term tests in schools in eastern neighbourhoods which are at higher risk, with a NIS



The darkened spots on the map register average radon levels ranging between 10,000 and 50,000 becquerels. Along the Jordan Valley there is reportedly high radon emanation and high radon level in some water sources

70,000 grant from the Environment Ministry. Results of the long-term tests, which are considered more accurate than short-term ones, will first be available in March.

"After we analyse those tests, we will decide how to proceed," says Reichmann.

Yes just two weeks ago, radon was found in a Gillo high school, which was not among those being tested by the city. Funding for the test came from parents.

Reichmann says that all the city's schools will be tested within a few years, and that they chose to start with school in areas of higher risk.

"This is a terrible burden on local authorities," he adds, noting that the city had to pick up the NIS 100,000 (around \$30,000) tab for repair work at the East Talpote school. "If there are other schools which need to be renovated, it could cost the city millions."

Farber shakes his head. He says this is all part of the long history of negligence in government ministries and the municipality, which left the radon danger disregarded for years. He feels his wife paid for this negligence with her life.

Farber is convinced that

the leukaemia and liver cancer which killed her was the result of prolonged exposure to radon. He intends to sue the municipality and relevant government ministries for criminal negligence for the way they handled the problem.

Meanwhile, there has been another case of cancer at the Talpote school. Working in another shelter opposite Farber's room is the school's handyman, Yitzhak Cohen. Cohen, 60, has worked at the school for nine years. A year-and-a-half ago, around the time Farber fell ill, Cohen was also diagnosed with leukaemia.

Since then his condition has deteriorated. He complains of dizziness and fatigue, on top of excruciating pain after he undergoes his monthly chemotherapy treatment.

"I don't know if it's because of the radon," Cohen says. "I'm a believing man; I don't ask too much about my condition."

The medical establishment rejects any link between the cancer of Farber and Cohen and radon, since neither had lung cancer. They insist that radon has been proven only to cause lung cancer. "Anything else is pure conjecture," says Jashovam Shani, of Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical Faculty.

"Since radon is a gas, the most sensitive organ is the lungs."

But Ne'eman of the Environment Ministry says that about 5 per cent of radon cases do result in leukaemia.

Schroeder, who received his Ph.D. from Massachusetts Institute of Technology studying radon, adds that experiments he conducted showed conclusively that prolonged exposure to radon causes chromosomal changes in humans. Such mutations may or may not cause cancer.

Also, Prof. Elihu Richter, head of the unit on occupational and environmental medicine at the Hadassah University School of Public Health and Community Medicine, argues that while radon emits mostly alpha particles — associated with lung cancer — it also emits small amounts of gamma radiation which, in high doses, can cause multiple types of cancer.

But experts stress that the radon case in East Talpote was unprecedented. In general, when radon is detected, it is found at no more than five times the allowable level of 200 becquerels, and it takes years of exposure before there is a risk of getting lung cancer.

Furthermore, everyone agrees that radon is a problem that can easily be controlled. Usually, radon levels can be brought down with proper ventilation, and by sealing crevices in floors and around pipes or cables where they enter the room. Even in the particularly difficult case of the East Talpote school, proper renovation brought the very high levels of radon down to normal.

But the experts do not take lightly the importance of taking care of radon wherever it is detected.

"Radon is a significant problem in Israel and has to be dealt with," says Menahem Margalit, head of the radiation measurement section at the Sorek Nuclear Research Centre at Nahal Sorek. "It is the main source of environmental radiation that the public at large is exposed to. But the steps that need to be taken are not complicated or expensive. It doesn't require vast resources. It's simply a question of finding the time to see these things through."

The Jerusalem Post

Computers set to shake up drug research world

By Neil Winton
Reporter

LONDON — Drug researchers wear white coats, shake up noxious looking concoctions in test tubes, and work in laboratories. But not for much longer.

Like almost every other industry in the world, pharmaceutical research is being taken over by computers.

According to the computational chemistry unit at Warwick University in central England, researchers will spend less and less time working with messy, hazardous and costly real chemicals.

Instead they will be peering at computer screens, which will help them quickly and

safely identify the most profitable areas for study.

The pharmaceutical industry's move to the computer hardly puts it in the industrial forefront.

"The aerospace industry has cut product development time to about four years from 10 using computers," Professor Paolo Zanella, director of the European Bioinformatics Institute at Cambridge, eastern England, told Reuters.

On average it takes about 10 years for a drug to progress from an idea to the marketplace.

Prof. Zanella said Boeing designed its new 777 airliner almost completely on computers. The car industry has embraced the computer for

design and even crash simulation.

As the pharmaceuticals business becomes ever more data intensive, it is in danger of being overwhelmed by an information overload, Prof. Zanella said.

"We need biologists with computer experience — information scientists — multi-disciplinary groups that can approach problems in different ways as in other industries. Life sciences seems to be the last one jumping on the bandwagon," said Prof. Zanella.

The drugs industry spends vast sums on research, but has huge problems pinpointing potentially successful products.

The world's pharmaceuticals companies spent just over \$40 billion in 1995 on research and development, according to London's Centre for Medicines Research.

Britain's Glaxo Wellcome spent \$1.89 billion on research in 1995, more than any other company in the world. The world's top 10 pharmaceuticals companies in terms of sales all spent more than \$1 billion on research last year.

But despite this huge use of resources, the quest for efficacious drugs is almost a random event.

The industry tests around 10,000 possible compounds for each one reaching the pharmacists' shelves, according to Professor Stuart Walker, the centre's director.

Prof. Walker said the 10,000 possible products become 1,000 after being screened in animals, and 100 after being tested for toxicity. After more tests only about 10 are left for human tests, and only one gets to market. One in 10 of these products is a therapeutic and economic winner, Prof. Walker says.

The computer will be an essential tool to examine all the possible combinations of compounds, and eliminate research blind alleys, according to Warwick University's Dr. Robert Deeth.

"At the moment bunches of chemists come together periodically and say 'let's make these molecules'. Using their experience, intuition, a series

of compounds would be drawn up to synthesise and test. This is an extremely labour intensive business and at best hit and miss," Dr. Deeth said.

Computers could revolutionise this process.

"You can use little gizmos (gadgets) to synthesise a wide range of compounds very quickly and test them very quickly with a powerful computer. You can go all through the combinations to get all possible products, then develop screening tests which pinpoint possible effective drugs," Dr. Deeth said.

Some diseases are particularly promising for computers. "Anti-viral and anti-bacterials are very amenable to this

approach. It's easier to isolate and get the structure of viral enzymes. AIDS research is all based on this approach," said Darren Green, research scientist at the Glaxo research centre.

Computer power is being turned on the race to find an improved version of penicillin, which is losing its old effectiveness, Mr. Green said.

Computers can improve the monitoring of drugs as they are tested, according to Prof. Walker.

"Drug companies can monitor the impact of drugs on patients. Instead of getting updates every few weeks, the drug companies can monitor patients directly in hospitals," Prof. Walker said.

And perhaps an unforeseen side effect for researchers.

Computers can pinpoint exactly who is doing what and how long it took, according to Prof. Walker.

Glaxo's Green said all big drugs companies are actively using computers to win the race to find block-buster drugs.

Prof. Zanella is confident that the industry will take up the aerospace challenge.

"We are just at the beginning of an era," he said. "But in a few years time computers will add to our knowledge and understanding, and cut the time to market of new drug discoveries."

Arabs seeking inter-Arab business at Cairo forum

CAIRO (AFP) — Arab countries are mainly interested in increasing business with fellow Arabs, rather than with Israel, at the third Middle East and North Africa economic conference which opens here Tuesday.

"We hope that inter-Arab cooperation will take on a bigger dimension and that is why there will be a special session devoted to Arab cooperation," said Raouf Saad, Egypt's assistant foreign minister for international cooperation.

"Inter-Arab cooperation has largely suffered from the absence of peace because all the resources of the Arab countries were decimated during the Arab-Israeli conflict."

"Now it must take a large dimension, with or without Israel," Mr. Saad said.

He stressed, however, that Arab cooperation was "not aimed against Israel. It is a circle which could engulf Israel."

Foreign Minister Amr Moussa has also underscored the "importance of inter-Arab cooperation" ahead of the three-day conference, which is expected to have 3,000 participants, including 900 from Egypt and other Arab countries and 100 from Israel.

"The door is now open, and it is the responsibility of the Arab World to move ahead to strengthen this cooperation," Mr. Moussa said Saturday.

"I am convinced that there is a big chance for the Arab countries to bolster economic, trade and tourism cooperation," Mr. Moussa said.

But he stressed that the "fruit of peace will only come with peace" and not from a short conference.

For Frederic Sicre, member of the executive board of the World Economic Forum which is co-organising the conference with Egypt, "Israel will be a country among others at the conference."

"This meeting will help Arab countries to strengthen their relations with economic powers such as Asia, Europe and the United States," Mr. Sicre said.

Unlike the two past forums at Casablanca in 1994 and Amman in 1995, Arab-Israeli cooperation will not take the driver's seat in Cairo.

"Under the cover of the peace process, Israel made large economic benefits but the (process's) slow-down has reflected directly on the Jewish state," Mr. Saad said.

"One of the goals of the conference is to shed light on the economic benefits which the two parties can reap as long as they respect the principles of peace and the losses which they can suffer if they move away from peace," he added.

Mr. Moussa made similar statements and urged Israel to make progress towards peace and play by the rules laid down in Madrid in 1991, when the peace process was launched, referring to the principles of Israel trading land for peace and sticking to previous commitments.

"If you progress towards peace according to the rules... you will obtain more," Mr. Moussa said, insisting that the economic conference was part and parcel of the peace process.

"We cannot separate both tracks, particularly because the mechanism of these conferences was born from the framework of the peace process," Mr. Moussa said.

According to Gregory Blatt, director of the World Economic Forum, politicians will pass the baton to business executives at a time when the Arab-Israeli peace process is frozen.

"In Cairo we'll talk business, business, business," he told AFP.

"Politicians will pass the baton to the businessmen who want to develop their economic activity independently of the political situation," because the chances for Israeli-Arab cooperation are weakening amid the peace process deadlock, he said.

According to Mr. Blatt, the first regional economic conference that was held in Casablanca in 1994 came at the time of the

Israeli-Palestinian and Israeli-Jordanian peace accords and was purely political.

The second conference, held last year in Amman, was both political and economic and helped identify the opportunities for regional cooperation, Mr. Blatt said.

In Cairo, where 3,000 participants from 92 countries are expected, only a dozen will be foreign ministers while nearly 2,000 will represent the international business community. In Amman there were 1,000 business executives.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will inaugurate the conference and then leave it to the participants.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, who attended the two first forums, will not be at the conference although he plans on visiting Cairo on Tuesday for talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Egypt will send 500 business executives to the conference, and another 400 will come from other Arab countries. Asia will have the largest number of business executives from outside the region — 300.

Europe is sending 250 business executives, the United States 150 and Israel 100.

And for the first time South Africa will participate with 15 business executives.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu exhorted Israeli business executives to attend the conference "to make business and consolidate peace."

But Israel could come out a loser because of its positions on the peace process, which has stalled since Benjamin Netanyahu became prime minister in June.

Despite Arab opposition to the policies of Mr. Netanyahu, Israel hopes to get a square deal at the Cairo conference.

Anything less will be an embarrassment to the United States, which lobbied many Israeli business executives to attend, and to Mr. Netanyahu himself. "Go to Cairo, make deals

at the conference. It is good for the Jews, it is good for the Arabs, it is good for peace," Mr. Netanyahu told the approximately 100-strong delegation of Israeli businessmen and bureaucrats on Thursday.

The Israelis are armed with a 180-page "programmes for regional cooperation" ranging from improving the drinking water in the Gaza Strip to a proposed \$5 billion Red Sea-Dead Sea canal to produce electricity — a project on the books for decades.

In Cairo last week, Ahmad Abu Al Kheir, Egypt's foreign ministry coordinator for the Middle East and North Africa economic conference, said the absence of progress in Arab-Israeli peace meant key regional projects were unlikely to move forward.

Mohsin Al Balushi, head of Oman's trade representation office in Tel Aviv, said an Israeli-PLO deal on implementing Israel's long-delayed partial troop pullback from the West Bank town of Hebron would break the ice.

Mr. Netanyahu's message to Israel's delegation was, in his words, "very simple."

"We will work in the sphere of peace," Mr. Netanyahu said, referring to his government. "You will work to achieve your business profits. I am certain you will find good partners... on the Arab side and I want to wish you success."

Mr. Netanyahu also sought to allay Arab apprehensions, voiced after the first two regional economic conferences in Casablanca and Amman, that Israel sought economic domination in the Middle East.

"I know there is always a fear in the Arab World that we aspire to some sort of economic colonisation," he said. "The natural development of the Israeli economy... is in the direction of the Western economies and economic ties with the United States, Western Europe and Asia."

"If you succeed in business, you've earned peace. And if you succeed in peace, you've earned business," he told the delegation.

Israel's Meridor seeks greater trade with Jordan

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Finance Minister Dan Meridor said Monday that he was trying to ease administrative trade barriers between Israel and Jordan and between the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Speaking at a seminar on Middle East business, Mr. Meridor said he wanted to allow Israeli and Jordanian trucks to travel to each other's countries.

"There are problems on the bridges (linking Jordan and Israel). I have heard from Israelis who want to trade with Jordan it takes too much time to go back-to-back from lorry to lorry. I am trying to get these things changed," he said.

Mr. Meridor said he had raised the issue with security officials.

With regard to the Palestinian self-rule areas, Mr. Meridor indicated he wanted to do away with licences now required from Palestinians travelling between the West Bank and Gaza.

"I have always found it very strange that a Palestinian can go from Nablus (in the West Bank) to Tel Aviv without any problem but he needs a licence to go to Gaza," Mr. Meridor said.

He also said he had doubts about the effectiveness of the closure on the Palestinian areas, which Israel imposed in February in the midst of suicide bombings by militants opposed to the peace process.

On Sunday, thousands of Palestinian workers returned to their jobs in

Israel when the Jewish state eased the closure.

Mr. Meridor called on Israeli industrialists not to block imports from Jordan and Egypt.

"I think it is the role of the government to stop protecting industries and allow cheaper products in the country," Mr. Meridor said. "We are not competing but complementary markets."

Mr. Meridor also expressed disappointment with the extent of Israel's trade relations with Egypt and said much more progress had been made with Jordan.

When asked about opposition in Jordan to doing business with Israel, Mr. Meridor replied: "I don't think the situation is equal to the one in Egypt."

REUTERS REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	-	1.4982	0.6076	1.2596	111.14	1.3337	1511.80	1.8802	5.0678
DE Mark	0.6675	-	0.4051	0.8411	74.22	0.8897	1008.94	1.1220	3.3855
GB Sterling	1.6458	-	-	2.0740	183.02	2.1950	2486.91	2.7639	8.3365
CH Franc	0.7939	118.87	0.4817	-	88.22	1.0575	1199.27	133.27	4.0203
JP Yen	0.0090	1.3463	0.5458	1.1325	-	1.1986	13.59	150.32	4.5547
CA Dollar	0.7498	1.1432	0.4554	0.9617	1.20	-	1145.17	1.2815	3.6621
IT Lira	0.0007	0.9896	0.4013	0.8633	1362.21	0.8810	-	11.09	3.3479
NL Guilder	0.0052	89.07	0.3818	75.04	66.16	0.7937	900.02	-	3.0161
FR Franc	0.1973	0.2954	0.1158	24.8511	21.91	0.2630	33.12	33.1200	-

Energy		Mid-East Currencies					
Oils	Last	Prebid	Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	JPY
Brent	23.20	23.30	SA Rial	0.2566	0.3956	0.16204	0.33613
WTI	23.65	23.55	AE Dirham	0.2723	0.40608	0.16548	0.34339
Bony	23.20	23.30	KW Dinar	3.3506	5.0226	2.03625	4.22564
Dubai	21.00	20.46	BH Dinar	0.3770	3.87614	1.61188	3.3458
UL Cas	22.40	217.00	CY Pound	2.1783	3.2631	1.3229	2.7451

Metal Prices		Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)					
Metal	Bid	Offer	Period	-1-	-3-	-6-	-9-
Gold (oz)	389.6	391.1	Month	5.28	5.35	5.40	5.47
Silver (oz)	4.98	4.98	3 Months	5.35	5.35	5.40	5.47
Platinum (oz)	385.78	386.75	6 Months	5.40	5.40	5.40	5.47
AL (3 Months)	1450	1451	1 Year	5.47	5.47	5.47	5.47
CU (3 Months)	2010	2012					
Zinc (3 Months)	1059	1060					
Lead (3 Months)	732	733					
NI (3 Months)	7190	7200					

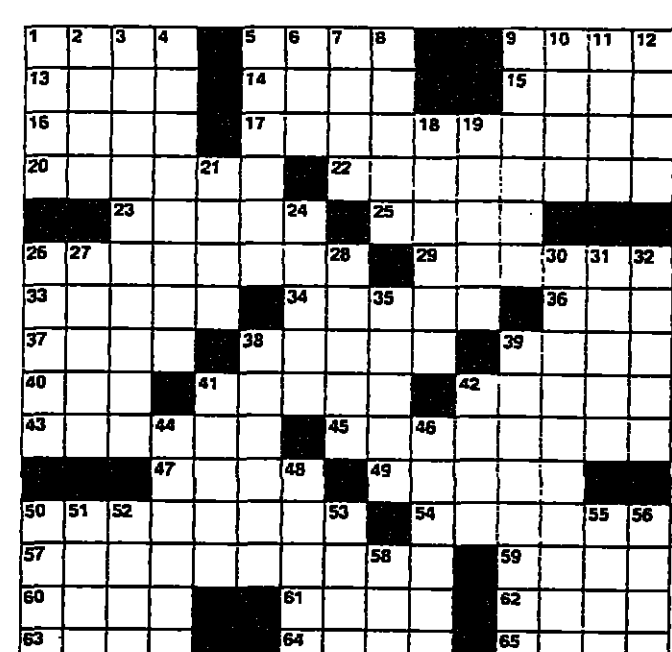
Energy		JOD Cross Rates	
Commodity	Last	Delivery	Currency
Coffee (c/ton)	124.17	Spot	US Dollar
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1350	Spot	GB Sterling
Sugar (\$/ton)	312.8	Spot	DE Mark
Wheat (\$/ton)	144	Spot	CH Franc
Soya (c/ton)	21.69	Spot	FR Franc
Ten (c/ton)	118	Spot	JP Yen
Barley (\$/ton)	2.14	Spot	NL Guilder
Rice (\$/ton)	470	Spot	IT Lira

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

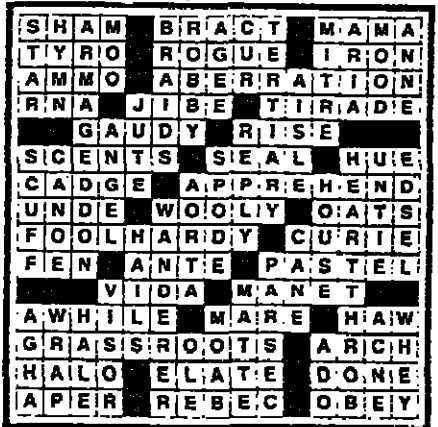
- Young lady
- Opened one's eyes
- An ump's call
- Director Kazan
- Wickedness
- Pelvic bones
- Australian prime minister
- Part of a table setting
- Musical shows
- Containers for nuts and bolts
- Grain blight
- AK city
- Kitchen utensil
- Wrote
- Urban areas
- Minaret
- French friend
- Pit
- Subdued
- "Iliad," e.g.
- Bonn's land: abbr.
- Vietnam city
- Leg joint
- "I Had A Hammer" singer
- More fashionable
- Biblical preposition
- Squelched
- Aquatic mammals
- Attic
- Part of a table setting
- Dimensions
- Gaelic
- Different
- Author Bagnold
- Changed color
- Gives approval
- Selves



by Bernice Gordon

DOWN

- Funny man Lew, once
- Ingredient in body lotion
- Part of a table setting
- Serving to soak thoroughly
- Smith and — (pistol)
- Eggs
- Scottish wear
- Musical John
- Lustrous
- "— ever need..."
- Arbitrary order
- All — (attentive)
- Barrel maker
- Comic character, Fudd
- Mountain range in Wyoming
- Gatherings for men
- Pith helmet
- Mechanical worker
- Part of a table setting
- M. Zola
- Certain gambler
- Dams
- Tailor: Lat.
- Signature on a check
- Famous skater
- Rectangular column
- Swallowed hard
- Former U.S. coins
- "Turn one's back —" (H. Ellis)
- Made haste
- Spectral
- Part of a church
- Farm structure
- Basso Pinza
- Williams and Lewis
- Halflucrogenic



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Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get yourself better coordinated today otherwise you can dash from one thing to another and accomplish practically nothing which could put you two steps back instead of forward which is the direction you desire.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You may not be satisfied with financial and property matters at this time, however do not make any radical changes as yet or you could find some difficulties present. This evening should be spent relaxing at home.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Be more persevering today and improve your business and personal affairs. Don't get annoyed because allies may break promises since getting annoyed doesn't do you any good and could cause difficulties in the days ahead.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You may find many a stumbling block in the path of your progress today so use patience and get one task completed at a time. Later this evening you can spend some quality time with friends and loved ones for some fun.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You may find it difficult to gain some personal aims, so take this in your stride. A group which you usually enjoy may seem dull today, so take the steps to make this day more enjoyable for every one you come across.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You may find that those who had promised to assist you today with outside affairs may renege, so wait a better time for this. Later this evening will be good for going out on the town with your close friends and have some fun.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You want to make the acquaintance of interesting personalities today, however first as completed by the follow-up p make all the amenities so as and as a result of increase that there will be a close relationship developing. This evening will be good for meeting with some of your government departments bigwig.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You want to run away from your responsibilities today, however this could prove very costly in the days ahead if you do so. Later this evening will be good for spending some time with your loved ones at home and have some fun.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Follow associates are too busy with own affairs today to give you the helping hand you had expected. Have more faith in your loved ones and stick by any decision which is made at this time by them.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Get your duties well organized today so that you handle them very efficiently. Get much completed at this time and you can get the recognition of some bigwig concerning some new project.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You are pulled in various directions today when you want to have recreation, so plan your time wisely. Later tonight will be good for you and your loved ones if you spend this time at home and just relax.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Something has arisen at your home today which you don't quite know how to handle, however keep cheerful. This evening you can spend some quality time with close friends and have some fun out on the town.

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Birthstone of November: Topaz — Tiger's Eye.

TRIPE MOSSY ONELET
Why the abandoned protege
old computer to work — TOC

Jordan agrees to sell Iraq additional goods worth \$35m

By Maria Bizri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan has agreed to a request by sanctions-hit Iraq for a \$35 million worth of urgently needed goods, an official statement said Monday.

The agreement came after Sunday's bilateral talks in Amman between Taha Moheideen Marouf, the second

deputy to the Iraqi president, and Higher Education Minister Abdullah Ensour, and Transport Minister Nasser Lawzi.

The senior Iraqi official discussed with the Jordanian ministers the future economic cooperation between the two countries.

Jordan's Industry and Trade Minister Ali Abul Ragheb informed his Iraqi

counterpart, Mohammad Mehdi Saleh, of Amman's decision to export vegetable oil, detergents, soap and fertiliser to Baghdad.

The \$35 million will be added to a 1996 trade protocol under which Jordan has supplied Baghdad with \$200 million worth of food and medicine exempted from stringent U.N. trade sanctions imposed on Iraq for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Jordanian officials also stated that the \$35 million will be allocated to ensure the continuity of Jordanian goods to the Iraqi market for the rest of the year, and that the sum will be covered by the 1997 protocol.

According to a Reuters report, Jordanian businessmen said Iraq, hit by delays to a \$2 billion oil-for-food

deal, has been seeking an increase of around \$50 million in next year's protocol with Jordan.

Under the 1996 accord, over \$200 million was deposited in an account at Jordan's Central Bank to pay Jordanian firms for exports of food and medicine to Iraq. In return, Jordan has received around 70,000 barrels of low-priced Iraqi oil per day.

According to Reuters, Jordan slashed the volume of the protocol with Iraq this year from around \$400 million in 1995. Jordanian officials also said that Jordan is unwilling to increase the protocol agreement in 1997 because "the system of payment for Jordanian firms drains valuable foreign currency reserves from the Central Bank."

Egypt launches drive to lure wary Asian investors

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian leaders are hoping to reap the rewards of five years of tough economic policies by convincing Asian investors the country has the potential to become the economic powerhouse of the Middle East.

Launching a campaign to boost Asian investments in Egypt from the current modest figure of around \$400 million, assistant foreign affairs minister Sayed Abu Zeid said the country offered opportunities "comparable with any in the world."

Addressing an Asian-Egyptian trade seminar in Cairo on Sunday, Mr. Abu Zeid said the country's economy had been transformed by a wave of International Monetary Fund reforms implemented since 1991.

"The liberalisation of foreign exchange, the

reform of monetary policy, the series of privatisations, the reduction of customs tariffs, the reduction of the public deficit (...) all these measures have created a very good atmosphere for foreign investment," he said.

"We need more dialogue with our Asian partners and more marketing, but Egypt has great potential for Asian investors," said Mr. Abu Zeid on the eve of the third Middle East and North Africa regional economic conference in Cairo.

These sentiments were echoed by Abd Al Monem Saoudi, president of Suzuki Egypt.

Mr. Saoudi pointed to the Oct. 6 industrial complex outside Cairo which already has between 400 and 500 factories, including multinationals such as Xerox Corp., Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. and Suzuki

Motor Corp. "At the moment we have 50,000 workers there and in a few years that will have doubled to 100,000. It shows how far we can go to compete with the investment opportunities offered by other countries," he said.

However, he called for more market research and marketing by Egyptian companies in the Far East and said it was vital for Egyptian and Japanese companies to get involved in joint infrastructure projects.

While Egyptian exports to Asia rose more than 600 per cent between 1980 and 1995 from \$79 million to \$503 million, the country's imports from Asia during the same period soared from \$228 million to \$2,512 million.

What is more, Egypt has yet to make a large

impression on the key Asian market of Japan — exporting just \$86 million worth of goods there last year.

Yoshiki Hatanaka, a senior researcher at the Japanese Institute of International Economy, blamed the reluctance of Japanese and other Asian businesses to invest heavily in Egypt on major competition from other markets, and the political instability of the Middle East.

"Investors will go where they get the best return and while labour costs are obviously cheap in Egypt, there is a lack of infrastructure," he said.

"The general perception among Asian businessmen is that the region needs time to create peace... the investors are interested, but they want to wait and see what happens," he added.

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Saudis buying massive numbers of Jordanian cattle

** ACCORDING TO a member of the Lower House, wide-ranging operations of cattle exports are taking place from Jordan to Saudi Arabia through different locations on the border between the two countries. The deputy said that since the decision to open the door for Jordanian cattle exports and imports from abroad, tens of lorries are seen daily loaded with sheep which are bought by Saudis through Jordanian middlemen. He pointed out that the export operations are more intense from the eastern areas but other deals are also taking place in the southern regions.

The deputy estimated the volume of exports in hundreds of thousands of sheep noting that the emphasis was on ewes which Jordan has allowed their export although many countries, even those with large number of ewes, have banned their export. Expressing his worries of losing a big portion of animal wealth, he said that the cattle export has reached about 30 per cent of the total number of sheep in the Kingdom.

He blamed higher fodder prices and the inability of Jordanian cattle-breeders to buy the animal feed for the high volume of exports. The deputy said each head of cattle needed between JD 5 and JD 6 worth of feed each month taking the animal cost to between JD 60 and JD 70.

The deputy attributed the high Saudi demand to purchase Jordanian cattle to the low prices at present as the price per head ranges between JD 30 and JD 80 which is one third of the normal price at this time of the year. The price was between JD 80 and JD 150 in the past (Al Dustour).

Premier discourages retendering

** THE PRIME minister has asked all tenders' committees at various government institutions not to resort to retendering except in necessary and limited cases and upon the recommendation of the minister of public works and housing. The value of tenders awarded this year amounted to JD 93 million.

Nasser Madadha, director of the government tenders department, said the prime minister's request was in light of statistics compiled by the follow-up personnel at the department and as a result of increased reliance on retendering processes. He noted that retendering procedures were time-consuming and causing delays that lead to non-utilisation of amounts allocated for projects in the budgets of many government departments.

Mr. Madadha stressed that retendering procedures cause chaos in sectoral and national plans and result in losing opportunities for providing or allocating financial allocations based on loans, grants or local resources (Al Dustour).

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 11/11/1996											
السوق المالية الأردنية											
PAST 12 MONTHS	COMPANY'S NAME	F / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE		
HIGH	LOW										
1.250	0.880	MID.EAST INV.BK.	72.3	0.00	85	83350	90492	1.05	1.10	0.05	
5.250	4.250	THE HOUSING BK.	13.0	2.85	2	1600	7760	4.90	4.45	0.05	
3.040	2.450	JOR.KUMAT BANK	18.3	0.00	4	481	1139	2.55	2.52	0.03	
1.200	0.990	JOR.GULF BANK	5.3	7.87	4	5000	4850	0.89	0.89	-	
3.800	3.000	JOR.INV.FIN.BANK	17.3	0.00	1	250	800	3.20	3.20	-	
3.380	1.800	BEIT.AL-MAL (BEITRA)	1.2	8.11	1	100	185	1.80	1.85	0.05	
BANK SECTOR TOTALS											
2.910	1.840	JOR.FRENCH INSUR.	5.3	10.64	3	850	1596	1.92	1.88	0.04	
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS											
1.990	1.450	JOR.ELECTRIC PWR.	11.0	7.55	3	1050	1688	1.58	1.59	0.01	
9.250	8.000	JOR.HOTEL TOURISM	17.2	2.06	3	1937	15496	8.00	8.00	-	
6.950	6.000	VEHCLS. OWNERS FED.	10.9	5.69	2	1512	9299	6.15	6.15	-	
2.800	2.090	SHIPPING LINES	10.6	7.94	1	100	252	2.55	2.52	0.03	
1.970	1.080	NATL. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	1	1450	1648	1.12	1.14	0.02	
1.050	0.880	REAL ESTATE INV.	19.8	4.19	1	1000	890	0.90	0.89	0.01	
1.260	0.590	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	32.3	0.00	4	1250	783	0.62	0.63	0.01	
1.270	0.560	LAXIA EDUCATION	9	0.00	12	3600	3664	1.05	1.04	0.02	
2.430	1.700	UNIFIED CO.	8.9	5.88	3	500	850	1.70	1.70	-	
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS											
3.770	3.060	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	18.9	3.03	11	3309	10895	3.30	3.30	-	
3.550	2.710	JOR.PHOSPHATE MINES	32.8	0.00	4	1103	3358	3.05	3.05	-	
12.550	8.720	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	9.3	8.71	7	3018	3018	9.15	9.15	0.03	
3.750	3.650	INDUSTRIAL COMM. AGR.	28.2	0.00	2	62	129	2.10	2.10	-	
4.870	3.100	ARAB FARM. COM.	17.5	6.27	6	1169	3732	3.18	3.19	0.01	
6.450	5.550	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	7.5	4.17	1	200	1200	6.00	6.00	-	
4.350	4.000	DAR ALDAMA DV. INV.	12.2	4.49	10	2714	12097	4.55	4.45	0.10	
5.800	3.130	JOR. ALUM. IND.	8.4	8.82	2	112	380	3.43	3.40	0.03	
1.960	0.450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9	0.00	50	56000	30735	0.54	0.57	0.03	
1.090	0.550	NATIONAL IND.	8.3	10.71	1	2150	1460	0.56	0.56	0.01	
1.840	0.940	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	9	3200	3124	0.96	0.98	0.02	
4.250	2.350	NATL. CABLE WIRE. MPAC	14.0	0.00	2	200	460	2.42	2.30	0.12	
1.350	0.700	UDR. SILICO. CHEM.	9	0.00	3	1000	780	0.82	0.78	0.04	
1.930	1.080	ARAB FARM. CHEM.	22.1	0.00	5	1250	1465	1.16	1.18	0.02	
3.280	1.460	UNIV. MOD. INDUS.	4.6	13.16	23	12500	18766	1.47	1.52	0.05	
2.100	1.140	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	17.6	0.00	28	26850	37534	1.38	1.41	0.03	
1.680	0.890	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	24.2	0.00	3	500	445	0.89	0.93	0.04	
2.460	1.750	EL. CABLE READY WEAR	9	0.00	1	1000	1850	1.86	1.83	0.03	
1.460	1.080	INTL. TOBACCO	25.6	0.00	2	600	654	1.09	1.09	-	
1.990	0.560	UNION CH. & VEG.	24.1	0.00	5	2750	2643	0.96	0.98	0.02	
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS											
INDEX: 110.31	FCMG: -0.05										
176	115132	133524									
GRAND TOTAL											
INDEX: 147.54	FCMG: -0.06	314	219045	274518							
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 11/11/1996											
PAST 12 MONTHS	COMPANY'S NAME	F / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE		
HIGH	LOW										
7.990	4.400	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	22.5	0.00	14	11150	6244	0.53	0.56	0.03	
0.800	0.550	JOR. TRADE FAK.	14.4	0.00	4	1100	594	0.55	0.54	0.01	
0.930	0.700	UNION INV. 50%	9	0.00	9	13450	26900	0.71	0.70	0.01	
1.110	0.650	ARAB FID. INVEST.	9	0.00	26	22450	9993	0.46	0.44	0.02	
0.930	0.710	AL-BALADIA TSE	16.0	0.00	8	5085	2326	0.71	0.71	-	
0.640	0.340	JOR. INDUS. MACH. TRUCK	9	0.00	2	500	275	0.37	0.35	0.02	
0.870	0.510	ARAB FOOD & MED.	8	0.00	4	900	549	0.62	0.61	0.01	
1.760	1.320	NATL. CHLORINE	9	0.00	3	1000	1320	1.32	1.32	0.01	
0.700	0.450	ARAB INTL. INV. FID.	9	0.00	3	15500	7748	0.51	0.49	0.02	
1.000	0.520	NATL. TEXTILE	9	0.00	1	1000	890	0.60	0.59	0.01	
1.100	0.480	NATL. MACH. ENG. RAMCO	9	0.00	7	15572	7475	0.49	0.48	0.01	
1.080	0.750	JORDAN STEEL	9	0.00	10	14900	11175	0.76	0.75	0.01	
0.780	0.430	ARAB ELECT. INDUS.	9	0.00	1	100	49	0.49	0.49	-	
0.840	0.600	NATL. PHARM. 65%	9	0.00	1	200	82	0.60	0.61	0.01	
0.830	0.420	INDUS. ENG.	25.9	0.00	10	7500	3192	0.43	0.42	0.01	
1.430	0.770	INDUS. CERAMIC	9	0.00	3	2500	1950	0.79	0.78	0.01	
0.950	0.500	ARAB INT. FOOD FACT.	56.2	0.00	5	12200	9760	0.80	0.80	-	
1.500	0.530	MID.EAST COMPLEX	7.9	0.00	13	118000	79133	0.58	0.67	0.01	
GRAND TOTAL											
124	243207	145013									

+: New 12 months low
N: Listed during the past 12 months
P: P/E ratio is 100 or more
g: Negative P/E
E: Earning is zero or N/A for the most recent year

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THE BETTER HALF.

By Glasbergen

"How come it's okay to eat cold pizza for breakfast, but not hot pizza?"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Miles Argilston

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter

Hingis humiliates Seles to take Oakland title

OAKLAND (AFP) — Sixteen-year-old Swiss sensation Martina Hingis needed just 52 minutes to rout world number-two Monica Seles 6-2, 6-0, here Sunday in the final of the Oakland WTA event.

"Seven years ago, I was nine and I would see her on television," Hingis said of Seles.

"Now I had her in front of me and I beat her. It was like a dream coming true," Hingis, ranked seventh in the world, picked up a winner's cheque for \$79,000 and collected her second WTA title of the year.

She also won in Filderstadt last month. "Today I had an almost perfect match. Everything worked well," Hingis said after winning what was her first-ever clash with Seles.

"It was much closer than what the score shows," Hingis made it clear that her next aim is to win a Grand Slam crown — starting with January's Australian Open.

"Now I would like to win a grand slam tournament," she said.

"That could be next year," Seles, who had been bidding for her sixth title of the year at the \$450,000 event, still earned enough points by reaching the final to ensure she will return to being joint world number-one with Steffi Graf when



Martina Hingis

the new rankings are published on Monday.

Until last week, Seles had shared the top spot with the German since returning to tennis after her long lay-off after being stabbed on court.

Seles and Hingis both lost in the semi-finals in Chicago last week and the Oakland match was their final tuneup for the WTA

championship, which begins in New York from November 18.

Seles was seeking her third title here but won only one game after holding her first serve.

"I pushed her to make mistakes," Hingis claimed, adding: "Monica told me today I was the better player and my tennis was incredible."

Real, Deportivo squander chance to catch Barcelona

MADRID (R) — Barcelona — maintained their two-point lead in the Spanish first division against the odds after both Real Madrid and Deportivo Coruna were held to goalless home draws on Sunday.

Barcelona have 28 points from 12 games after drawing 3-3 in a thrilling game with Atletico Madrid on Saturday.

Real's performance against struggling Logrones drew whistles from fans who had come to the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium hoping for a goal avalanche against a team who had lost 8-0 and 6-0 in their last two away games.

Real chairman Lorenzo Sanz responded by saying that he would talk to coach Fabio Capello about tactics.

"It was bad...I will tell Capello that the Spanish league is different from the Italian, and that the fans want something more than just results," said Sanz after seeing Real's second consecutive goalless draw at home.

Capello, who won the European Cup while at AC Milan, said that he was "tranquil", but recognised that he was looking for

reinforcements for his multi-billion peseta squad.

Real stay second on goal difference from Deportivo, who had the best of their 0-0 draw with Tenerife despite having French striker Mickael Madar sent off in the 15th minute for an off-the-ball foul on Cesar Sanchez.

Real Betis restarted their challenge by coming from behind to beat Real Sociedad 2-1, and move up to fourth ahead of Monday's game between Valladolid and sporting Gijon.

Athletic Bilbao climbed to seventh behind Atletico with a 2-0 win over Valencia in which international striker Julen Guerrero was again the principal figure for the Basques.

Zaragoza shared the points with fellow strugglers Hercules in a 1-1 draw between two teams who sacked their managers on Thursday.

Compostela moved away from the danger area with a 2-1 victory at Celta Vigo, their third triumph in the Galician Derby in as many seasons in the first division.

Ivanisevic beats Kafelnikov to take Kremlin Cup

MOSCOW (R) — Goran Ivanisevic overcame top seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov and a partisan crowd to lift Moscow's Kremlin Cup with a 3-6 6-1 6-3 win in a scrappy final on Sunday.

It was the Russian's second unhappy final in a week, he went down to Swede Thomas Enqvist at the Paris Open last Sunday.

The big-serving Croat, ranked fourth in the world, acknowledged he had been helped by the third-ranked Russian's mistakes, including three double faults in the final game.

"I played better in what was not a great game," Ivanisevic said. In fact, both players made eight double faults but Ivanisevic served more than 20 aces, nearly four times Kafelnikov's tally.

Ivanisevic, his hair tied up in an elaborate, forward-pointing pony-tail, said he was setting his sights on finishing the season ranked

second, which will be within his grasp if he does well in the ATP World Championships beginning in Hanover on November 19.

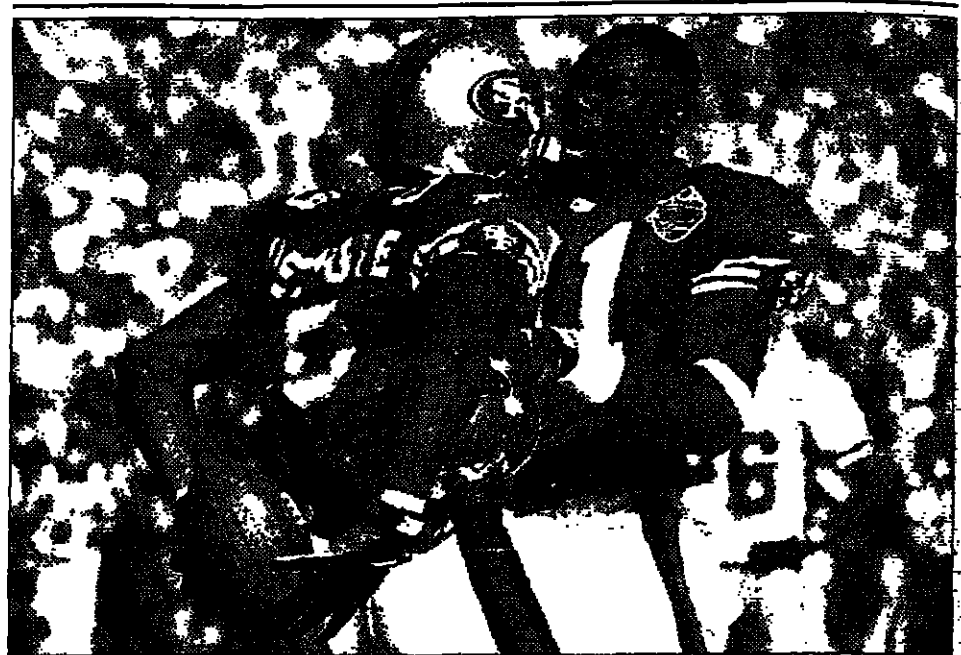
He complained that the 18,000 home crowd at Moscow's Olympic arena not only rallied constantly behind Kafelnikov but whistled as the Croat was playing, creating the atmosphere of a Davis Cup tie rather than an ATP tournament.

"They can support him but not like that," Ivanisevic said.

Kafelnikov took the first set after breaking Ivanisevic's serve in the ninth game.

But Ivanisevic broke the Russian twice in the second set to race to a 5-0 lead. In the third, Kafelnikov looked tired.

"I did all I could but, forgive me, Goran was just a bit too good today," Kafelnikov told the crowd.



San Francisco 49ers' wide receiver Terrell Owens (R) shouts his approval to fellow wide receiver Iheanayi Uwaezuoke after Uwaezuoke scored on a 15-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Steve Young in the first quarter of the game against the Dallas Cowboys at 3Com Park (Reuters photo)

Cowboys claw their way to overtime win over 49ers

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — The San Francisco 49ers lost a tight quarterback duel to Steve Young, lost a late lead and then lost the game as the Dallas Cowboys clawed their way to a 20-17 overtime victory over their arch-rivals on Sunday.

Chris Boniol's 29-yard field goal 6:17 into overtime capped a masterful drive spearheaded by quarterback Troy Aikman and Emmitt Smith and enabled the super bowl champion Cowboys (6-4) to keep from dropping to a mediocre .500 Mark.

"We were desperate, we had to win, but now we are back in the race," said Aikman.

Aikman was 5-for-5 on the drive that started the overtime for 50 yards and Smith carried three times for 21 yards, including a 16-yard burst two plays before the winning kick.

Young left in the second quarter with a slight concussion, his second in three weeks, and was unable to return.

Elvis Grbac took over at quarterback for the Niners (7-3), who squandered 10-0 and 17-10 leads. "We missed him at crunch time," Niners coach George Seifert said about Young.

A crucial turning point came when Aikman was driving toward a score in the fourth quarter and a pass was picked off inside the San Francisco five by Marquise Pope.

But, on the next play, Grbac threw behind William Floyd, and fired strickland intercepted at the 15.

This time, Dallas cashed in with Aikman tossing a six-yard touchdown pass to Eric Bjornson to tie it up with 2:45 left.

In Kansas City, Greg Hill ran for 94 yards and two touchdowns and caught a

third as the Kansas City Chiefs ran at will against the league's best defence and held off the Green Bay Packers 27-20 in another big showdown on Sunday.

Hill led a rushing assault that produced 182 yards against a Green Bay defence that had been yielding 83 yards a game.

Packers defensive end Sean Jones gave Kansas City its due.

Green bay (8-2) had its five-game winning streak snapped. Kansas City improved to 7-3.

In Denver, John Elway shook off a sore hamstring to throw one touchdown and Terrell Davis ran for another as the Denver Broncos held off a late Chicago Bears surge to win 17-12.

In Philadelphia, Bruce Smith sacked Ty Detmer on a fourth-and-goal play with 28 seconds left and Thurman Thomas rushed for 90 yards and a touchdown to lead the Buffalo Bills to a 24-17 victory over the Philadelphia Eagles.

The Eagles nearly rallied from a 24-10 fourth quarter deficit. After pulling within a touchdown, the Eagles drove from their own 25-yard line to the Buffalo 3. But on fourth and goal Smith sacked Detmer to preserve the win.

The win kept the Bills (7-3) tied with New England for first-place in the AFC east. Despite the loss, Philadelphia (7-3) remained tied with Washington for first in the NFC East.

In Cincinnati, Jeff Blake hit Ki-Jana Carter on a 12-yard touchdown with 6:39 remaining to propel the Cincinnati Bengals to their third straight victory, 34-24 over the first-place Pittsburgh Steelers.

In Washington, Boomer Esiason had the third-best

passing day in nfl history with 522 yards, and Kevin Butler redeemed himself with a 32-yard field goal with 33 seconds left in overtime as the Arizona Cardinals beat the Redskins 37-34.

Butler, in his first game with Arizona, missed a 32-yarder with 9:10 left in overtime and missed again on a 37-yarder on the play prior to the game-winner.

But Redskin Darryl Morrison was offside and Butler made good on his third overtime chance.

Esiason was 35-of-59 for Arizona (4-6). Washington, despite 124 yards rushing by Terry Allen, fell to 7-3.

In Miami, Dan Marino passed for three touchdowns, including a pair to Fred Barnett, and passed a Milestone Mark as the Miami Dolphins routed the Indianapolis Colts 37-13.

Marino, the NFL's all-time passing leader, became the first to throw for 50,000 yards and finished the game with 50,121 as Miami (5-5) snapped a three-game losing streak. The Colts (5-5) lost their fourth straight.

A New York, Drew Bledsoe threw three touchdowns passes, including the game-winner to Keith Byars with 4:03 left, as the New England Patriots overcame a 21-point first half deficit to beat the New York Jets 31-27.

The win enabled the pats (7-3) to keep pace with Buffalo atop the AFC East.

In other games, St Louis (3-7) crushed Atlanta (1-9) 59-16 Houston (6-4) beat New Orleans (2-8) 31-14 Tampa Bay (2-8) edged Oakland (4-6) in overtime 20-17 Jacksonville (4-6) nipped Baltimore (3-7) 30-27 Seattle (5-5) outscored Minnesota (5-5) 42-23, and Carolina (5-5) beat the New York Giants (4-6) 27-17.

Holyfield turns heavyweight division on its head as Tyson talks of rematch

LAS VEGAS (AFP) — Mike Tyson was still groggy from his beating at the hands of Evander Holyfield when he started talking about a rematch. The former undisputed world heavyweight champion relinquished his World Boxing Association (WBA) title to Holyfield on Saturday night in the biggest upset in boxing — since the last time Tyson lost.

That was to James "Buster" Douglas in 1990, a defeat that paved the way for Holyfield's first accession to the championship.

Tyson was knocked down in the sixth round by Holyfield and took a beating in the 10th before the referee stopped the fight in the 11th, with Tyson dazed and rubber-legged. The former champ immediately said he wanted another shot at Holyfield.

Promoter Don King quickly picked up that refrain.

"Don't write Mike Tyson off yet," King said. "We are going to dance again. We are going to see if we can put together the greatest rematch in the history of boxing."

Tyson earned \$30 million for the fight while Holyfield received \$11 million. In a rematch Holyfield could approach a \$30 million purse.

Not that Tyson and Holyfield have only each other to look forward to in the crowded heavyweight division.

Two other world heavyweight title fights were on the Tyson-Holyfield undercard.

American Michael Moorer retained his International Boxing Federation (IBF) title when he stopped South African Francois Botha, and England's Henry Akinwande retained his



Mike Tyson covers his injured eye during a press conference (Reuters photo)

lightly regarded World Boxing Organization (WBO) crown with a victory over U.S.-based Russian Alexander Zolkin.

The vacant World Boxing Council (WBC) title will be up for grabs in January, when England's Lennox Lewis will fight Oliver McCall in Nashville, Tennessee.

Until Saturday, it looked like all roads to a unified title would eventually lead

to Tyson.

Since serving three years of a six-year prison sentence for rape, Tyson had easily disposed of four lightly regarded opponents and won back two world titles.

King had reportedly already lined up a Tyson-Moorer bout for March. Tyson's loss to Holyfield, thought by many to be past his prime at 34, may be harder to recover from than his

defeat by Douglas.

Tyson has always maintained he was ill-prepared for that fight, but he has no such excuse this time around.

Nevertheless, Tyson said he would be back.

"This is not a tragedy," he said. "Everyone loses. People lose fights and people lose in life. People lose loved ones. It's how you come back that defines what kind of person you are."

Enqvist clinches Stockholm title

STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden's top player Thomas Enqvist won his second tournament in eight days by retaining his Stockholm Open title with a 7-5 6-4 7-6 (7-0) victory over American Todd Martin on Sunday.

Third seed Enqvist, who won the Paris Open last Sunday, defeated second seed Martin in a 128-minute battle by racing through the final set tie-break.

The victory also secured Enqvist, 22, the reserve berth at the ATP Tour World Championship, the world's most lucrative tennis tournament which starts in Hanover on November 19.

ATP spokesman Benito Perez-Barbadillo said Enqvist's triumph put him ahead of South African Wayne Ferreira, a first round loser, for the reserve place in the event which brings together the world's top eight players for a top prize of up to \$1.4 million.

Just attending as reserve is worth \$40,000, but Enqvist said going as reserve was not the same as being one of the top eight.

Enqvist, who also won in Delhi earlier this year, will lead his country against France in the Davis Cup in Malmo late this month.

The win capped a season which for Enqvist began indifferently but ended on a high.

"I moved really well on the court and that is the big key to beating Martin," Enqvist said. "I played well and I think he didn't play his best. He can play better than this."

World Cup

Scotland — Scotland's decision to make them replay their match with Estonia by the latest round of the Cup matches on

Scotland's heroes in the home side were John McGinlay, who scored eight minutes, and Jim Leighton, who scored in a superb dis-

play. The good wins too were Yugoslavia and Yugoslavia's victory over Switzerland, and the victory of the Swiss Republic by a narrow margin.

Scotland's group took three points in the home match when they beat Estonia by a 1-0 score. The winner of the group will be the winner of the group.

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Los Angeles beat Houston

Los Angeles — Los Angeles helped turn the tide in the game by leading the Lakers to a 101-88 victory over the Houston Rockets in the first quarter of the game against the Dallas Cowboys at 3Com Park (Reuters photo)

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World Cup qualifiers

Scots edge Swedes, Cyprus upsets Israel

PARIS (AFP) — Scotland rebounded from the disappointment of FIFA's decision to make them replay their match with Estonia by beating main rivals Sweden 1-0 in the latest round of World Cup matches on Sunday.

Scotland's heroes in the group four match were goalscorer John McGinlay, who put the home side clear after eight minutes, and veteran 38-year-old goalkeeper Jim Leighton who turned in a superb display.

There were good wins too for Norway and Yugoslavia — Norway snatching a 1-0 win in Switzerland, and Yugoslavia beating the visiting Czech Republic by the same scoreline.

Swiss hopes of qualification from group three took a battering in Bern when Norway's Wimbledon midfielder Oyvind Leonardsen slotted home the winner after 32 minutes as he ran onto a rebound after Marco Pascolo failed to hold a fierce drive from Tore Andre Flo.

And Real Madrid's Predrag Mijatovic scored Yugoslavia's only goal in their group six match in Belgrade after 18 minutes following an astute through pass from Juventus star Vladimir Jugovic. It was the Yugoslav's fourth win in four matches.

Greece forced a surprise 1-1 draw against Croatia in Group One in Zagreb —



Viktor Onopko of Russia tries to keep control of the ball while being attacked by Robert Jangiers of Luxembourg during their World Cup European group five qualifying soccer match in Luxembourg. Russia won the match 4-0. (Reuters photo)

going ahead through Niko-laidis after just nine minutes before the home side drew level on half-time through real Madrid's Davor Suker who fired home a tremendous 27 yard goal from a Boban free-kick.

Frustrated Ireland dropped their first points when they were frozen out by a stubborn Iceland team in a goalless draw in Group Eight at Lansdowne Road on Sunday.

The one point Ireland earned failed to send them back to the top of the

group. Macedonia's 11-1 hammering of Liechtenstein kept them clear on goal difference.

Russia gave their qualifying campaign a boost when they took command of Group Five by winning 4-0 in Luxembourg while second-placed Israel crashed surprisingly in Cyprus when they went down 2-0.

Turkey ran up a 7-0 win against group seven opponents San Marino — Derelioglu Oktay, who plays for Besiktas, delighting the Istanbul crowd by scoring four times.

In the South American group, Peru ran up a convincing 4-1 victory over Venezuela in Lima. Paraguay snatched a 1-0 win over visiting Ecuador, but Bolivia twice lost the lead and had to be satisfied with a 2-2 draw against Colombia.

In the CONCACAF group, the United States scored two second-half goals to beat Trinidad and Tobago while Salvador needed a last minute winner from Trigueros to clinch a 3-2 win over Panama.

Delegations converge on Amman for 50th World Bodybuilding Championships

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As competitors and officials converge on Amman for the 50th World Amateur Bodybuilding Championships which open here Wednesday, officials of the International Federation of Bodybuilders (IFBB) have expressed their satisfaction with the efforts of the organisers of the event — the first World Championship to be hosted in an Arab country.

In an interview with the Jordanian sports media, IFBB Executive Director Pamela Kagan noted that it was very pleasing to see volunteer Jordanian youth working for the success of the tournament. "I am very happy to be visiting Jordan for the second time. I was in close con-

tact with the Jordanian Bodybuilding Federation and I must say we are very pleased with their efficiency."

Technical Committee member Tony Blinn said he was pleased with the championship's venue — the Sports Palace. "We only have some finishing touches to be done on lighting and sound systems, otherwise everything has been very co-operative in every aspect."

Paul Chua, assistant to the IFBB president representing Asia said he hoped that Jordan would join the Olympic Council of Asia. He said bodybuilding will be one of the events in the next Asian Games which will be held in Pusan, South Korea in 2002.

Rafael Santonja, assistant to the IFBB president

noted that the championship hosted by Jordan had set a new record for the number of participating countries. He said a total of 50 of the best referees from various countries would be judging the event.

The competitors will be narrowed down to 15 in the preliminary round with only the top six making it to the final round and victory ceremony.

Judges will be looking at front double biceps, front lat spread, side chest, back double biceps, back lat spread, side triceps, abdominals and thighs.

In the team posing judges look at:

- Muscular development
- Originality of routine
- Unison of poses
- Overall choreography
- How well they work together as a unit

• How well they complement each other physically.

There will be random testing of the athletes and the tests will be sent to the laboratories of the International Olympic Committee in Spain. If a competitor tests positive he will be stripped of his medal and suspended for two years.

Sponsors

The championship's biggest sponsor is Prince Faisal Ben Fahed who donated \$50,000 thus enabling Jordan to become the first Arab country to host a world championship.

Other sponsors include the Arab Bank, the Housing Bank, Royal Jordanian, Fastlink, Motorola and the United Insurance Company.

Jordanian basketball teams prepare for 1st division championship Ahli lose to Syria's Wihdeh 76-52

By Aileen Bannayan Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian basketball teams are currently putting their finishing touches in preparation for the start of the 1996 first division basketball championship which kicks off Nov. 19 with six teams taking part.

Al Jazireh left Amman for Beirut Monday to play a series of matches against top Lebanese teams. While the team may have an incomplete lineup, Yousef Abu Baker will be leading his younger teammates who will again try to maintain their team's image as a formidable force in the league and attempt to take over second place.

Former champions Al Ahli who lost their crown to Al Orthodoxy last year already started a several day visit to Syria. In their first match, Al Ahli lost 76-52 (41-36) to Al Wihdeh Monday.

Ahli were mainly represented by their younger players led by Faisal Nsour, Mohammad Shamali, Walid Badran and Ramez Hammoudah as the absence of three of their top stars in the past season has obviously taken its toll on the team's form.

While star centre Naser Bushnaq quit Al Ahli last year to join a Qatari team, two of the country's veteran stars Marwan Ma'touq and Yousef Zaghloul were also rumoured to have recently quit

their team and were subsequently suspended by their club for six months after failing to show up for practice.

The Jordan Basketball Federation this week confirmed their suspension which makes them ineligible to play in the first division championship should they decide to return to their team.

Titleholders Al Orthodoxy, who exerted strenuous efforts to take back their title last year, were the first team to start friendly matches abroad as they took part in the Hariri championship in Beirut last month alongside top Arab teams from Lebanon and Egypt.

Lakers beat Hawks as Portland overcome Spurs

LOS ANGELES (R) — Eddie Jones helped turn the boos into cheers at home Sunday by leading the Lakers on an inspired third-quarter run that erased a 19-point deficit as Los Angeles rallied to beat the Atlanta Hawks 92-85.

Jones scored 13 of his 19 points during the 32-10 run and Cedric Ceballos added 11 during the same stretch as the Los Angeles stormed to victory after trailing 57-38 a minute into the third quarter. "When you are down by 14 or 15 or whatever, you want to get out there and make something happen," Jones said. "We weren't hustling, we weren't making steals, we weren't running, we were just standing around."

"I think the key was that we got the crowd going. We don't want to be booed at home, it leaves a bad taste in your mouth."

Shaquille O'Neal, who finished with 19 points and 18 rebounds, seemed to spark the comeback with a thunderous dunk. Jones and Ceballos took over from there as Los

Angeles shot 65 per cent from the field during the period while holding Atlanta to just 19 per cent (4-of-21) shooting.

Mookie Blaylock had 16 points and 12 assists to lead Atlanta. Christian Laettner added 14 points and nine boards.

In Vancouver, Patrick Ewing scored 21 points and pulled down 16 rebounds to lead the New York Knicks to a 101-82 rout of the Vancouver Grizzlies that completed a sweep of their three-game west coast trip.

Charlie Ward added 13 points as the Knicks finished their road swing in more comfortable fashion after having to rally from 10 points down to beat Golden State on Thursday and going into overtime to subdue the Clippers on Friday.

New York (5-1) led 47-45 at the half before they widened the gap in the third quarter. Ewing netted five points in a 13-2 run that made it 67-53 with 4:32 left in the quarter.

"I was very happy with the Knicks performance in the second half," said New York

coach Jeff Van Gundy. "I felt they passed the ball well, defended well and rebounded well."

Anthony Peeler scored 16 points, while Greg Anthony and Lawrence Moten added 12 apiece for Vancouver, which has the worst record in the NBA at 0-6.

"I know they are a tough team, but I was embarrassed by our effort out there in the second half," said former Knick Anthony. "We weren't competitive enough for our home crowd."

In Portland, Isaiah Rider scored 23 points and Kenny Anderson added 17 as the Portland Trail Blazers starting backcourt dominated their San Antonio Spurs counterparts in a 94-81 victory.

Rider hit 8-of-16 shots, including 3-of-6 from three-point range, and Anderson added seven assists without a turnover.

Chris Dudley chipped in

with 12 rebounds off the bench as the Trail Blazers extended a six-point half-time lead with a seven consecutive points to start the third quarter.

Dominique Wilkins led the Spurs with 18 points and 11 rebounds.

At Los Angeles, Rodney Rogers scored 22 points and Stanley Roberts added 19 as the Los Angeles Clippers used a decisive fourth-quarter run to beat the Minnesota Timberwolves 81-70.

Tom Gugliotta had 18 points to lead Minnesota in scoring.

In Cleveland, Danny Ferry scored 20 points off the bench and Terrell Brandon added 19 and eight assists as the Cleveland Cavaliers, off to their best start in eight years, cruised to a 101-86 victory over the Denver Nuggets.

Dale Ellis tallied 18 points for Denver.

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NORTH

Q J 6 3

Q J

K J 8 3 2

K J 2

WEST

A 10 2

Q 8 6 3

Q 10 7 6

A 10 8 5 4

SOUTH

A A 7 2

Q A K Q 5

A 6

A A Q 3

South's opening bid was artificial and forcing. North's response was a rather curious positive — we would have chosen either a waiting bid of two diamonds or a jump response of three diamonds. South intended the three-club rebid as an inquiry for the major suite, but North, reading it as natural, launched into Blackwood. South's five-club response showed all four aces, and North leaped to the grand slam in clubs. A mystified South passed.

West led a spade and nothing on South's face revealed the apparent hopelessness of the contract. After some thought, declarer found a line that offered a chance. Both red suits led to divide evenly and spades normally (if it were to succeed).

The opening lead was covered by the Jack and King and taken with the ace. A heart was led to the Jack, the queen of spades was cashed and declarer returned to hand with the ace of diamonds. On the ace, king and queen of hearts declarer discarded two spades and a diamond from dummy. There followed a diamond to the king and a diamond ruffed low to bring declarer's total to nine tricks. Declarer ruffed two spades and a diamond high, and the ace of trumps was the fulfilling trick!

Opening lead: Ten of ♠. Study the layout of this deal carefully. Given the lead of the ten of spades, what is your optimum contract? Go to the head of the class if you selected seven clubs, the only grand slam that can make in this contract! A segment of the imagination? In fact, it was reached by two latecomers in a major pair event, though neither was proud of the

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